

Gorbachev spends 3 days in Baikonur

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has spent three days on a previously unannounced visit to the space centre from where the Soviet Union is expected to launch its first shuttle, the Soviet news agency TASS said Wednesday. Mr. Gorbachev, accompanied by senior military officials, toured the Baikonur complex in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan from Monday until Wednesday. He made a speech which, in part, underlined the significance of the science work carried out at the centre, TASS said. The agency gave no details of this section of his speech, but the reference was a rare official acknowledgement that the Soviet Union's space effort has military applications. Mr. Gorbachev was accompanied to Baikonur by Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov, the head of the KGB security police, Viktor Chebrikov, and the Communist Party Central Committee secretary with responsibility for military industries, Lev Zakharov. The presence of these three — and that of other officials including Yuriy Mironov, head of the Academy of Sciences — and the absence of any previous mention of Mr. Gorbachev's trip in the official media pointed to the sensitivity of the visit.

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U.N. senators want to close PLO offices

WASHINGTON (R) — Legislation which labels the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a "terrorist" organisation and which would close two PLO offices in the United States was introduced in the U.S. Senate on Wednesday. "Neither one belongs in this country," said Senator Charles Grassley, one of three senators sponsoring the measure. "It's time they were closed," Mr. Grassley said. Senate Republican leader Bob Dole and Senator Frank Lautenberg want to shut down the PLO information centre in Washington and the PLO observer mission to the United Nations.

ADC launches moves against offending movie

WASHINGTON (AP) — An organisation of Arab Americans is launching a protest against the movie "Ishtar," calling it an affront to every Muslim. The film, scheduled for release later this week, is about two American songwriters travelling through the Middle East with a blind camel. It stars Dustin Hoffman, Isabelle Adjani and Warren Beatty. "The movie contains every stereotype you have ever heard about the subject, including bumbling Arabs and camels," said Faris Bouhafa, director of public relations for the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

Reagan to name Horan as envoy to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan is to nominate a career diplomat, Hume Horan, a Middle East and North Africa veteran, as ambassador to Saudi Arabia, the White House said Wednesday. Mr. Horan, 52, formerly served in diplomatic posts in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. He was ambassador to Cameroon and equatorial Guinea and Sudan.

Recipient of contra money faces charges

ZURICH (R) — A major Swiss bank said Wednesday it was pressing embezzlement charges against a Geneva-based businessman who allegedly received \$10 million destined for Nicaraguan rebels last August. But the Swiss justice ministry said the man was not implicated in the Iran-contra affair now under congressional investigation in Washington. Credit Suisse, the bank which received the funds, said it was lodging charges against the man, who subsequently transferred the money to another Geneva bank, where it still remains frozen by authorities. Justice sources named the bank as Banque Paribas (Suisse) SA.

Peace groups meet in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Peace groups from 40 countries met in Moscow on Wednesday to discuss ways of improving international security and preventing war. Officials from the non-governmental Soviet Peace Committee told Reuters delegates would discuss military, political, economic and humanitarian aspects of world security.

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Israeli coalition stalemated over peace conference

Peres calls on Shamir to resign but Likud refuses to budge

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's inner cabinet failed to reach agreement on Wednesday over proposals for an international Middle East peace conference, leaving the coalition government in disarray.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who has pressed for a peace conference as the only path to direct talks with the Arabs, postponed his planned departure for the United States Wednesday night and called for early general elections.

After a session of the 10-man inner cabinet lasting more than three hours, Mr. Peres told reporters: "The cabinet is divided

in half... I did not formally present a proposal because the outcome was clear from the start. One must go to the people in a democratic state and let the people decide."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose right-wing Likud bloc rejects the proposed conference, dismissed the call for elections. He said the absence of a cabinet majority for Mr. Peres

ideas meant he could no longer seek to promote a conference sponsored by the United Nations.

"The foreign minister does not have the mandate to work on an international level for the international conference," Mr. Shamir said in a statement.

"It is my opinion that the national unity government could and should continue. Let us make every effort to overcome the rifts that have widened in recent days."

But Mr. Peres vowed to continue his campaign, saying: "There was no decision to prevent me."

Mr. Peres' Labour Party, in a statement, demanded that Mr. Shamir resign.

Mr. Peres claims he has the agreement of Jordan, Egypt and the United States on an international conference.

Arab states reportedly agree to hold Riyadh summit in September

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab countries have agreed to hold the 13th Arab summit in Riyadh at the beginning of September, a senior Arab League official was quoted as saying Wednesday.

The Al Khaleej daily of Dubai quoted the official, who it said asked not to be identified, as saying that efforts to hold the summit, which has been repeatedly postponed since 1983, had achieved limited results but that these results were sufficient for a conference to be held.

The main obstacle in the face of efforts to hold the summit, the official said, remained Syrian-Palestinian differences. However, the official said he expected

joint efforts by Algeria, Libya and the Soviet Union to remove the obstacle.

Other inter-Arab differences, including disputes between Syria and Iraq and the Western Sahara conflict involving Algeria and Morocco, are beginning to be settled, according to the official.

Al Khaleej quoted the official as confirming that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein held a meeting arranged by His Majesty King Hussein. The official said it was a matter of time before Libya and Iraq resumed relations.

The official said that there had not been much progress on the question of the Saharan conflict,

but that Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and King Hassan II of Morocco, who held a border summit under Saudi aegis earlier this month, had agreed to avoid military confrontation and, on the need to hold the 13th Arab summit.

The official's statement follows a flurry of diplomatic efforts launched by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to settle inter-Arab differences and bring the Arab leaders together in a summit in Riyadh.

The last regular Arab summit was held in Fez, Morocco, in 1982. An extraordinary summit was held in Casablanca, Morocco, in August 1985.

McFarlane: Reagan encouraged contra aid and was briefed often

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan frequently encouraged his aides to help Nicaragua's "contras" and was briefed in detail on rebel operations at a time U.S. military aid was banned, former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane said Wednesday.

In his third day of testimony at congressional hearings on the Iran-contra scandal, Mr. McFarlane also said he believed that assistance to the rebels from the White House National Security Council (NSC) or any other U.S. intelligence agency was against the law.

Mr. McFarlane said Mr. Reagan often urged him, as head of the NSC, to provide unspecified help to the contras. He said he gave the president briefings on contra developments on dozens of occasions.

Mr. Reagan has denied know-

ing that funds from secret sales of U.S. weapons to Iran, made in hopes of freeing American hostages in Lebanon, had been diverted to help the contras and that money for the rebels was solicited by U.S. officials from foreign governments.

Mr. McFarlane, who tried to commit suicide in February in distress over his role in the Iran scandal, was replying to questions from Congressman William Boland, author of the law that sharply curbed official U.S. aid to the contras.

Mr. Boland asked Mr. McFarlane: "Based on your reading of the Boland amendment, in effect from October 1984 to December 1985, would any type of assistance to the contras by a member of the NSC or any other intelligence agency have been permitted?"

Mr. McFarlane replied: "No

Mr. Boland pressed Mr. McFarlane on cash diversions to the contras and provision of intelligence information only days after the law took effect.

Mr. McFarlane said he briefed Mr. Reagan in detail on the status of the contras dozens of times, providing him intelligence reports on operations in the field, changes in personnel and attitudes in Congress towards the rebels.

Mr. Boland asked: "How many times did the president mention his desire that something be done to help the contras? Was that often to you?"

Mr. McFarlane: "Yes sir."

"Did you ever give the president reports on what you and your staff were doing to carry out his wishes?"

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SPLA claims downing plane

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in southern Sudan said Wednesday their guerrilla forces shot down a Hercules transport plane from the Sudanese air force carrying two platoons of troops near the southwestern town of Wau on Tuesday.

The radio of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), monitored in Nairobi, said SPLA anti-aircraft guns hit the Hercules C-130 as it was about to land at Wau airport, 1,000 kilometres southwest of the capital Khartoum.

The incident occurred at 9 a.m. the radio added.

The radio said the two platoons were going to Wau as reinforcements but it gave no indication of the casualty toll.

The rebels, most of whom are from the southern Dinka tribe, say their aim is to overthrow what they describe as a minority clique ruling in the mainly Arab and Muslim north of Sudan.

Carbomb kills Syrian soldier in W. Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb exploded near a Syrian army base in west Beirut on Wednesday causing the first Syrian troop casualties since Damascus sent soldiers into the city's mainly Muslim western sector in February.

Police said one Syrian soldier was killed and two soldiers were wounded as they tried to defuse the car bomb near a sandbagged post 200 metres from the Bain Miltaire, a Lebanese army beach club which is now a main Syrian base.

The Voice of the Homeland radio said eight people, including four Syrian soldiers, were wounded. It said the Syrians detained several people for questioning.

No group claimed responsibility for the blast, the second car bomb attack on the Syrians since more than 7,000 troops moved into west Beirut on Feb. 22 to curb militia violence.

The Syrian takeover of west Beirut was condemned by President Amin Gemayel as unconstitutional and the mainly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia controlling east Beirut describes the Syrian force as an occupation army.

The Syrians were asked to intervene by Prime Minister Rashid Karami and other Muslim leaders who saw action by Damascus as the only way to stop fierce street battles between leftist militias.

On May 4 Mr. Karami said he was quitting because his three-year-old "national unity" government had failed to end Lebanon's 12 years of civil war or tackle its economic crisis.

Mr. Gemayel has not yet announced whether he will accept the resignation of the pro-Syrian Mr. Karami, apparently awaiting the outcome of talks his envoys plan to hold in Damascus on Thursday.

King visits Baghdad for talks with Iraqi leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein discussed means to settle inter-Arab differences and consolidate Arab solidarity during a visit the monarch paid to Baghdad Wednesday evening.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two leaders' talks also covered the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war and Jordanian-Iraqi relations. It said the King's visit to Baghdad and his talks there came within the framework of continuing consultations and coordination between Jordan and Iraq.

The meeting between the two leaders was attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker as well as the Kingdom's ambas-

sador to Iraq. On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and member of the Revolutionary Command Council Taha Yassin Ramadan, Defence Minister Adnan Khairallah, Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nassef Jasssem, the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan and Ahmad Hussein, head of the presidential office.

The Iraqi president hosted an iftar in honour of the King Wednesday. It was attended by the delegation accompanying the King and senior Iraqi officials.

The King and the delegation accompanying him were met upon arrival in Baghdad and seen off upon departure by President Hussein and senior Iraqi officials.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials were at hand in Amman to see off the King and receive him upon



His Majesty King Hussein is received by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein upon his arrival in Baghdad for a short visit (Petra photo)

his return home later Wednesday.

Upon his return home, the King sent a cable to President Hussein for the warm hospitality accorded to him and the delegation accompanying him during

the visit. The King said in the cable that his visit to Baghdad and talks there were another link in the continuing consultations and coordination between the two countries.

Iraqi planes bomb refineries deep inside Iranian territory

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked oil refineries deep inside Iran on Wednesday after weeks of short-range strikes on military and industrial targets.

A Baghdad war communiqué said the planes hit refineries at Esfahan, central Iran, and at Tabriz, in the northwest, where they also knocked out a Hawk anti-aircraft missile base.

Iraq acknowledged the raids, saying they had caused damage and injuries.

It was the first time Iraqi warplanes had attacked targets in major Iranian cities since Feb. 19, when Baghdad announced a temporary halt to devastating bombing raids as part of a peace plan to end the Gulf war.

Although Wednesday's raids were on two of Iran's biggest cities, Baghdad said they were

directed at specific oil targets.

Iraq said its aircraft also hit Iranian military camps near the Iran-Iraq border and a vessel off Iran in the northern Gulf.

Shipping sources in the region were not able to confirm that any vessel had been attacked in the waterway.

Iraq: "Missiles ready"

Meanwhile, the head of Iran's navy, Commodore Mhammed Hussein Malekzadeh, said his forces had employed anti-ship missiles in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, at the entrance to the waterway, which were ready for use.

Washington said earlier this year Iran had established bases for Chinese-made Sanku anti-ship missiles near Bandar Abbas, an Iranian naval base on the

Strait of Hormuz which separates Iran and Oman.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Commodore Malekzadeh as saying in a speech at a Tehran mosque that the Iranian navy had formed a "quarantine belt" in the Gulf and in the Gulf of Oman.

He said the navy was "decisively intercepting ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, regardless of the flag they were flying or their nationality."

The commodore said only littoral countries of the Gulf should be concerned with the waterway's security.

The United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain maintain warships in the Gulf.

Kuwait plans to transfer some of its oil tankers to sail under the American flag to deter Iranian attacks.

Murphy had 'close' encounter with Iranians

JEDDAH (Agencies) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy arrived in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday on the sixth leg of an Arab Gulf tour to discuss the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East conflict.

Mr. Murphy, a former ambassador to Saudi Arabia and now assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, flew in from Kuwait where he told reporters that U.S. policy on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) remained unchanged.

Mr. Murphy also said he had a "close" encounter with Iranian officials during his visit to the United Arab Emirates earlier this week, but denied holding secret talks with them.

A Kuwaiti newspaper reported Tuesday that Mr. Murphy met Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati for four hours.

"I passed by Mr. Besharati. I was close to him," he said. "He was in a car leaving (UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan's) farm... at five minutes to 10 a few nights ago, moving slowly about five miles an hour."

"I was moving slowly about five miles an hour in the other direction. So our conversation was limited."

The Kuwaiti daily Al Rai Al Aam attributed its report to informed senior sources in Abu Dhabi, where Mr. Murphy arrived from Oman last Saturday on the second leg of his Gulf tour.

He has also visited Iraq, Qatar and Kuwait and will go on to Bahrain from Saudi Arabia. He is expected to end his tour in Jordan, which was not included in his original itinerary, Reuters said.

In a press conference in Kuwait on Tuesday, Mr. Murphy firmly ruled out a role for the PLO in Arab-Israeli peace talks unless it renounced violence and accepted Israel's "right to exist."

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Egypt urges PLO to ensure role in peace talks

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Wednesday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) risked "missing the train" if it did not find a way to participate in an international Middle East peace conference.

President Mubarak told reporters he was not setting conditions for PLO participation.

"The conference is our last chance to solve the Palestinian cause... I urge the PLO to find a way to participate in the conference so we can move before we miss the train," he said.

Mr. Mubarak was speaking during a tour of factories in America, near Alexandria.

In Cairo Tuesday night, Mr. Mubarak and His Majesty King Hussein discussed the moves towards an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Mr. Mubarak's top political adviser, Osama Baz, told reporters the two leaders stressed the need for consensus among Arab countries bordering Israel — Syria, Egypt, Jordan and

Lebanon.

The Jordan News Agency quoted Dr. Baz as saying the talks covered efforts to convene the conference and to end the Iran-Iraq war as well as on strengthening bilateral ties.

Petra quoted Dr. Baz as saying a general Arab agreement and complete understanding was needed to exploit the current favourable atmosphere worldwide for convening the conference.

As to whether it should provide a framework or its resolutions should be binding on the parties involved, Dr. Baz said: "These are matters of technical details which could be decided upon at a subsequent stage."

He added: "What is important is to agree on principles, and as at any international conference, solutions and views cannot be imposed on the participants... the important thing is that agreement between concerned parties should be reached directly and willingly and that every side promise to fulfil its pledges."

Cairo closes Iranian office, says Tehran funded extremist group

CAIRO (R) — Egypt ordered two Iranian diplomats to leave the country and closed their office in Cairo after uncovering an extremist Muslim group funded by Tehran, security sources said Wednesday.

They said the Foreign Ministry cited "non-diplomatic activities" in its expulsion order served on Tuesday. The government would soon reveal details of the underground group, they said.

Egypt and Iran do not have diplomatic relations and a spokesman at the Iranian interests section of the Swiss embassy declined to comment.

He told Reuters earlier that resident Iranian diplomat Mahmoud Mohdadi and another Iranian employee had been given seven days to leave the country.

Islamic fundamentalism has been increasing in Egypt but is not of the brand influenced by Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The majority of Egypt's Muslims are Sunnis, unlike Iran where Shi'ite Muslims predominate.

The security sources said the existence of the underground group was discovered during investigations into an attack last Tuesday on former Interior Minister Hassan Abu Basha.

But they stressed that the group was not implicated in the assassination attempt, which wounded Mr. Abu Basha in the leg and hand.

Police have arrested two prime suspects in the case. The government has not openly accused a particular organisation of responsibility, although Cairo newspapers have hinted that the banned Jihad group may be involved.

Jihad was held responsible for the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981 and Mr. Abu Basha, interior minister from 1982 to 1984, was responsible for rounding up Muslim fundamentalists accused of the

murder.

The Muslim Brotherhood, banned but officially tolerated by the government as representing a more moderate brand of Islamic fundamentalism, denounced the attack on Mr. Abu Basha.

The Brotherhood won 35 seats in parliament in elections last month through an alliance with the centre left Socialist Labour Party.

Cairo maintained close ties with Tehran until the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the late Shah, who lived in exile in Egypt until his death in 1980.

An article by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein appeared in all Egyptian newspapers on Tuesday dealing with the rise of Muslim fundamentalism in the Arab World.

In the article, President Hussein said that not all forms of Islamic fundamentalism could be attributed to Ayatollah Khomeini and his teachings.

Amnesty calls on Iran to end torture, executions

LONDON (Agencies) — Amnesty International said Wednesday it had overwhelming evidence that Iran tortured and executed religious and political dissidents.

The London-based human rights organisation appealed to Iran's Islamic authorities to end torture, halt punishments designed to kill, cause intense pain or result in mutilation, and bring laws and practices into line with international standards.

Amnesty said in a report and briefing on Iran that it could not give precise number of those detained because it had not been allowed into the country since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his Islamic fundamentalist supporters seized power in 1979.

But it said a wide range of sources, including official gazettes and news reports and "hundreds of reports" of torture from former prisoners and prisoners' relatives had enabled it to document a continuing long-term pattern of abuses.

Amnesty said it had recorded 115 executions in 1986, but believed this was well below the true total, as many executions had been carried out in secret and were not officially acknowledged.

Beatings on the feet, lashings with leather whips and steel rope, and being hung by the arms or wrists were also widely used to torture detainees in Iranian jails, it said.

Those imprisoned included alleged members and supporters of opposition groups, members of ethnic minorities and members of the Baha'i faith. Amnesty said many were teenagers at school when arrested.

The organisation pointed out that it had worked on behalf of some of those now in power under the rule of the previous regime of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, and said it was "particularly sad" they now appear insensitive to humanitarian appeals on behalf of others.

Amnesty also expressed concern about "inhuman and cruel" punishments for petty criminals, including stoning to death which can be prescribed for various sexual offences, amputation, which is imposed for repeated theft, and floggings.

Kissing by an unmarried couple is punishable by up to 99 lashes, and amnesty said it had received reports of pregnant women who had miscarriages after being flogged.

An Iranian embassy spokesman in London said Amnesty's claims were not true. There was no torture in Iran, he said, and torture was in any case against Islamic Law.

He agreed that floggings, amputations and stonings did occur, but said they were carefully regulated by Islamic Law. He blamed Western misunderstanding of Islamic culture, which he said was "very difficult to explain."

Amnesty said it recognised Iran's right to base laws on its social, cultural and religious traditions, but these laws had to accord with the country's human rights obligations.

Amnesty said it had not received a response to two memoranda sent to Tehran in 1986 asking for better protection of human rights in Iran.

Amnesty said at least six men and two women were stoned to death in 1986 and the authorities were using a specially devised electric guillotine for cutting off prisoners' fingers.

More than 6,400 sentences of physical punishment were passed in Tehran alone in the 12 months up to March 1987, according to

figures released by the authorities — nearly 1,100 were floggings imposed for sexual and alcohol-related offences.

Amnesty International said it also wanted an end to arbitrary arrest and unfair trials of political prisoners which were "making a mockery of justice in Iran."

Most such trials were secret and lasted only a few minutes even though they might result in sentences of death or long terms of imprisonment. Often the accused did not know the charges against them until they appeared in court and Amnesty International knows of no political case before a revolutionary court in which the accused has been allowed to have a lawyer. In some cases the verdicts are kept secret — and there is no right of appeal.

A recurring image in the many testimonies gathered, says Amnesty International, is of rows of Evin Prison detainees sitting on the floor blindfolded, with swollen and bleeding feet.

Over 200 people have been executed because of their religion, most of them Baha'is. Youngsters under 18 have been executed in defiance of international law — Amnesty International says it received reports that children as young as 11 were executed in 1981 and 1982.

Most executions are by hanging or firing-squad. Stoning to death is prescribed for various sexual offences and is deliberately designed to cause pain to the victim before death — by law the stones used must not be "too large, in case the person dies after being hit by one or two of them."

Mujahedeen fighters report killing 200 Iranian Guards

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iranian opposition group said Wednesday its fighters killed more than 200 Iranian Revolutionary Guards in fighting in the west Iranian province of Sardasht on Monday.

The Baghdad-based Mujahedeen E-Khalq said in a telex to Reuters that its men captured seven military bases and destroyed two others in the attack.

It said 70 enemy bunkers, a mortar position and an ammunition depot were blown up and a

large quantity of arms and ammunition, including mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, was seized.

An Iranian army force, sent to reinforce the bases Tuesday, was ambushed by the Mujahedeen who killed 20 of them, it said. Seven Mujahedeen fighters died in the fighting.

The release said the operation was the 45th by the Mujahedeen this year.

Tehran detains 2 Italians

ROME (R) — Two Italians working in the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas are being held by Iranian authorities, the Italian Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

The ministry said in a statement the two men, who were working at a thermoelectric power station built by the Milan firm Gruppo Industriale Elektro Meccaniche (GIE) in the strategic port at the head of the Strait of Hormuz, were detained.

The two employees, Bruno Bellamano and Alessandro Roveri, are in the hands of local judicial authorities but no charges had yet been brought against them, the statement said.

Italian diplomats in Rome and in Tehran were seeking clarification of the detention.

Relations between Rome and Tehran were severely strained last autumn over a satirical sketch on Italian television about the sale of American weapons to Iran. Tehran recalled its ambassador to Rome and expelled three Italian diplomats. The ambassador has since returned to Rome.

White House says tour of Iranian aides meaningless

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has said he was out of town when then-national security aide Oliver North gave Iranian officials a late-night tour of the White House last September.

The president's spokesman described the incident, which took place during negotiations for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, as meaningless.

"I haven't known about it long enough to have any (thoughts)," Mr. Reagan said in answer to reporters' questions, adding: "We were obviously out of the city."

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters that the tour for the Iranians was the same one that members of the public take daily.

"It's meaningless. Who cares? Big deal," Mr. Fitzwater said.

McFarlane defends Reagan, North, takes blame for Iran-contra scandal

WASHINGTON (R) — Former White House official Robert McFarlane has delivered an impassioned defence of President Reagan and Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North over the Iran-contra affair and tried to shoulder all the blame himself.

But some members of the House of Representatives and Senate committees engaged in probing Mr. Reagan's worst political crisis said at the end of Mr. McFarlane's second day of testimony Tuesday that he was an honourable man forced to betray his own high standards.

"When you start down the slippery slope of trying to get around the law — decent, honourable people are led to violate laws," Senator David Boren, an Oklahoma Democrat, said Tuesday.

Mr. McFarlane, a 49-year-old ex-Marine whose remorse over his role in the affair led him to attempt suicide three months ago, was to return to Capitol Hill later Wednesday to face a third and final day of grilling by the two committees.

As Mr. Reagan's national security adviser from October 1983 to December 1985, and after he left office, Mr. McFarlane was deeply involved in the covert sale of U.S. arms to Iran in an attempt to buy freedom for American hostages in Lebanon.

He also played a major role in White House efforts to keep aid flowing to Nicaragua's contra re-

bels as a time when Congress had banned such assistance.

Tuesday's five hours of testimony was devoted to a detailed examination of how Mr. McFarlane had misled Congress in past testimony and engaged in "gilding" a chronology of events prepared last November to make events appear in a better light and minimise damage to Mr. Reagan.

But before the proceedings got under way, Senate committee Chairman Daniel Inouye caused a flurry of excitement with an announcement that a long-lost \$10 million donation to the contra from Brunei had been found.

He said it wound up in the wrong secret Swiss bank account and the accidental recipient, identified only as a wealthy Swiss shipping magnate, had transferred the money into another account where it had accrued \$253,000 in interest.

Then a remorseful McFarlane recounted how he had misled Congress last December when he denied knowledge of White House solicitation of contra aid from third countries, notably \$34 million from Saudi Arabia.

He also admitted knowing that Col. North, who was fired from his post as Mr. Reagan's National Security Council (NSC) staff Nov. 25 for allegedly diverting Iran arms profits to the Nicaraguan rebels, misrepresented his contra fundraising activities to members of Congress.

The few dramatic moments of Tuesday's hearings came when Mr. McFarlane sprang to Col. North's defence, and then to Mr. Reagan's.

Sen. Paul Sarbanes, a Maryland Democrat, asked Mr. McFarlane who or what he had been trying to protect in giving the gilded account of certain facts.

"Very likely myself, my reputation, my own record of performance," he said. "And only that?" the senator asked.

"I believe, Senator Sarbanes, that President Reagan's motives and direction to his subordinates throughout this enterprise has always been in keeping with the law and national values."

"I don't think he is at fault here ... and if anybody is, I am, a grumpy-faced McFarlane said."

Asked earlier by House deputy Republican counsel, Richard Leon, why Mr. McFarlane had not tried to "rein in" Col. North, who has been portrayed as a gung-ho Marine who went out of control, he replied:

"I am afraid that in the past two days Office is really getting a bum rap, which appears to be endorsed by me, and I don't intend that."

"I think Col. North is a man of immense devotion to the preservation of human life ..."

"He's a person of very deep and profound conviction and belief in God who relies on his



Robert McFarlane

conscience, as all of us do, but one that is formed in scholarly pursuit of scriptures and passionate in its extreme energy."

Mr. Reagan meanwhile again denied to reporters that he knew of the White House efforts to solicit funds for the contra.

Mr. McFarlane tersely informed the panel that he is not a fragile flower "and wants no coddling."

He made clear he resents any innuendo that he is in a delicate emotional state.

He responded to a congressional counsel questioning him that "during the (lunch) break I had the misfortune, to turn on the television, whereupon a young woman (reporter) was describing that I was a rather fragile flower that had to be catered to."

"That's nonsense," Mr. McFarlane said. "Shoot your best shot."

Libya accuses Australia of disinformation campaign

CANBERRA (R) — Libya accused Australia Wednesday of running a campaign of disinformation against it after Australian television broadcast a satirical programme lampooning Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi.

The secretary at the Libyan People's Bureau, Shaban Gashut, said in a statement the programme was part of the Australian government's disinformation campaign against Libya and he had reported on the broadcast to Tripoli.

Australia has criticised some South Pacific island states increasingly in recent months over growing links to Libya.

The offending sketch on last Monday's "The Dingo Principle"

programme featured an actor dressed as Qadhafi describing Libya as a "non-profit organisation for bringing guns to underdeveloped Third World countries."

The programme on the state-owned Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) network has in the last month sparked protests from the Soviet Union and Iran after it showed satirical sketches about their countries' leaders.

Iran expelled two Australian diplomats from Tehran in retaliation over a sequence poking fun at Iranian Revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Mr. Gashut said the programme showed ABC was run by people with cheap taste who were ignorant of other peoples' culture.

U.S. decides not to send envoy back to Damascus

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has decided not to send Ambassador Thomas Eagleton back to Syria, from which he was withdrawn last October in protest against alleged Syrian backing of "international terrorism," U.S. officials have said.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the decision was taken after debate about whether a gesture should be made to Damascus to encourage new moves on Middle East peace.

"In the end it was clear that our stand against terrorism would be undermined if we made a gesture without getting something substantial in return," one official told Reuters.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman refused to confirm the decision.

"We have said on many occasions that we are prepared to resume more normal relations with Syria if its policy of support for terrorism changes," Mr. Redman said.

"U.S. policy remains that we are prepared to reconsider the steps we have taken if Syria takes concrete steps," he said.

Mr. Redman did not elaborate on what Syria would have to do to restore normal relations with Washington, which withdrew Mr. Eagleton after a London court convicted a Palestinian of allegedly trying to "bomb an Israeli airliner with Syrian help."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:00 Korean
14:25 Children's programme
14:45 Ramadan contest
14:50 Cooking programme
15:00 Arabic stories
15:35 Arabic play
17:15 Religious series
18:00 Religious programme
18:10 Arabic comedy
19:00 Religious programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:25 Soccer
23:10 An interview with a star
00:15 Religious series

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 L'au des hommes
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Monde, Seltan Charif
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Sports Magazine
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Me and My Girl
21:10 The Challenge
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "The Battle of the last Panzer"

RADIO JORDAN

835 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 85.9 KHz. SW Tel: 74111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Cont.
10:00 Country Music
11:00 Hi-Sville: The story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Readings
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 30-minute Theatre
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 News Bulletin
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Discovering Music
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Special Feature
18:30 Music
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 Program Review
18:25 Children's programme
18:50 Carroons
19:15 Amusement programme
19:30 Ramadan competition
19:45 History of Medicine
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Cosby show
21:00 Weekly Preview
21:10 Falcon Crest
22:00 News in English
22:30 Peter the Great
22:35 Ramadan competition

RADIO JORDAN

835 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 85.9 KHz. SW

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 French film: Le cinq derniers minutes
19:00 News in French
19:15 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 History of Medicine
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Cosby show
21:00 Weekly Preview
21:10 Falcon Crest
22:00 News in English
22:30 Peter the Great
22:35 Ramadan competition

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Samer Obeidar and Issam Al Sabah at the Housing Bank Gallery.

FEATURE FILM

* "Monsieur verdoux" at 5:00 and 7:10 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

VIDEO

* "Johnny Metro Blue" at 4:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 661026/7
American Centre 644371
American Centre Library 641520
British Council 636147/8
French Cultural Centre 637049
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre 623049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Haya Arts Centre 657155
Husseini Youth City 667181/6
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. 646251
Jordan Archaeological Museum 636111
Univ. of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

* "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and

SCULPTURES

sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists, including Jabbal Luveldt. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 660128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabbal Amman. Eighty Circle. Tel. 816534. 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman. Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luveldt. Tel. 637440.

De Sille Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein. Tel. 63777.

Terrazza Church (Roman Catholic). Jabbal Luveldt. Mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:50 p.m. Tel. 637440.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman. Tel. 678906.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmiesan. Tel. 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabbal Amman, 6th Circle. (Rev. N. Smiri. Tel. 811295.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06) 532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

10:00 Agaba (RJ)
10:20 Jeddah (RJ)
11:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:05 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
11:05 Doha, Qatar (RJ)
11:05 Doha, Oman (RJ)
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Home news

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY MAY 14-15, 1987-3

Cabinet endorses funding for joint Jordan-Egypt Co.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Wednesday announced its endorsement of the minutes of the 10th meeting of the Joint Jordan-Egypt Higher Committee which convened in Amman on May 7.

A statement said that the Cabinet has issued instructions to various government departments to begin implementing the recommendations and resolutions contained in the minutes.

Among other things, the minutes said that the two countries would each pay its share of the capital for a \$50 million joint holding company by August 1 and called for a July meeting of the company to deal with the creation of four firms for fisheries, fodder and lean meat, agricultural seeds, and a tourism investment company. The holding company, to be based in Amman, is a major outcome of efforts for economic cooperation since the two countries normalised ties in 1984.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai led the Jordanian team to the meeting and Dr. Atef Sedki, prime minister of Egypt, led the Egyptian side.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi minister visits University of Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdullah Abbas visited the University of Jordan Wednesday and met with its vice president, Mahmoud Al Samra. They discussed cooperation between the university and the Iraqi ministry of Awqaf in cultural affairs. Dr. Samra briefed the minister of the university's activities and programmes and accompanied him on a tour of the campus.

Jordan to attend water conservation panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment will take part in the Third World conference on water conservation which will be held in Canada on May 27. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jabbar will head Jordan's delegation to the 10-day conference.

Ministry to go to radiation seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Health will take part in the first Arab symposium on protection against radiation which will be held in Tunisia on June 15. The symposium will last for three days.

Man sentenced for drug trafficking

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Sa'id Subhi Ali to three-years imprisonment with hard labour for trafficking hashish. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

Company studies Dead Sea's potential

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian industrial company is currently conducting a study on the establishment of a company for extracting and processing therapeutic materials from the Dead Sea with a capital of JD 250,000. Economic feasibility of the project revealed that the project should be a good investment and should be profitable. The Arab Potash Co. (APC) is considering contributing 20 per cent to the proposed company's capital.



CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES IRAQI MINISTER: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan receives at the Royal Court Wednesday the Iraqi minister of awqaf (centre), Abdullah

Fadel Abbas, who arrived in Amman on Monday. Also, in attendance was Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat (Petra photo)

Queen Alia fund plans construction of 11 community centres in south

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF) has finalised plans for establishing 11 community centres in the south of the country to help raise the social and economic standard of people in that region, according to Dr. Zaki Ayyoubi, member of the QASWF's board of trustees.

He said that the centres will be set up at Sadaka, Marigha, Dabaghat, Taybeh, Jahir, Baqaa, Zubeira, Basta, Tafleh, Rweim and Basra. He said the total cost of these centres is estimated at JD 500,000 and will be built on 3,400 square metres of land.

These centres will have children nurseries, workshops for training local women in dress-making, and multi-purpose halls, Dr. Ayyoubi added.

He stated that JD 50,000 will be spent this year on building annexes to the Yarmouk Centre

for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, and JD 60,000 more will be spent in the future on other expansions in the same centre.

QASWF will carry out a project for promoting local development at Hashimi district in Amman at the cost JD 1.3 million. This project entails erecting seven buildings on 8,000 square metres of land, which will house a vocational centre for the handicapped among other services, Dr. Ayyoubi said.

He related that the land was a gift for the project provided by the Greater Amman Municipality. Work on the project is expected to start in the coming few months.

Dr. Ayyoubi also said that QASWF has recently conducted a survey in Karak region and found that there are almost 500 handicapped there. Work has

already started in Karak region for building a centre to help rehabilitate these handicapped people. The centre is expected to cost JD 520,000, Dr. Ayyoubi estimated.

He said there will also be another rehabilitation centre in Eidoun, in Irbid Governorate, also costing nearly JD 520,000, providing services to 150 handicapped. In Irbid itself, he said, a JD 250,000 project for the rehabilitation of handicapped women and the provision of children care, has been established by QASWF.

In addition to all that, Dr. Ayyoubi said, the QASWF will continue a programme of helping people in rural regions to plant trees and initiate income-generating projects. The organisation will also assist charitable societies and offer training courses to their members.

Local firms launch first phase of Amman-Dead Sea Highway

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint venture of two local companies at Jaafar Company and General Contracting Company, signed a contract with the Ministry of Public Works Wednesday for building the Naour bypass, extending for six kilometres along the Amman-Dead Sea Highway at the cost of JD 2.3 million.

The contract was signed by Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh and representatives of the two companies.

Following the signing ceremony, Mr. Hawamdeh said that the bypass was part of the 41 kilometre highway linking Amman, Naour and the Dead Sea, a main road for Jordan. He said that the new highway was deemed necessary because of

landslides on the existing road, near the village of Adasieh, and the heavy traffic along the highway, especially in the winter season. The bypass forms part of the new highway, and will extend for six kilometres, with four lanes and will have a junction and several bridges.

The bypass is the first phase of the new highway which, he said, will cost a total of \$46 million, of which \$25 million has been sup-

plied in the form of a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the minister added.

He said that the second phase of the project, entailing construction of 10 kilometres, is now under consideration. A tender could be announced in four months when the documents and designs have been completed.

The minister said that the third part of the highway project, extending for 11.4 kilometres, will be later announced in a tender. Twenty-six kilometres of the total road will have four lanes and the rest will be two lanes, the minister added.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior ministry officials and Mr. Louis Reade, USAID director in Amman.

Turnout for voter registration rises sharply as deadline nears

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — with four more days to go before voter registration centres close, reports gathered by the Jordan Times on Wednesday indicated yet another sharp rise in turnout all over the Kingdom.

The number of citizens turning up to register their names and exercise their franchise for the impending parliamentary elections is expected to maintain the present pace, if not increase, before the registration period draws to an end this Sunday.

Amman and its suburbs, where over one third of the Kingdom's population resides, ranked first in terms of voter registration with 66,000 registered by closing time on Wednesday, followed by Zarqa with almost 62,000, and the Balqa region with nearly 59,167.

Although a total number on voter registration throughout the Amman Governorate — which includes Amman and its suburbs, Madaba district, Thiban, Sahab,

Al Mouwaqar, Al Jizeh, Na'our, Wadi Esser, Al Talibeh and Badou Al Wasat (the middle bedouins) — was estimated by the Amman governor at 126,000 upto Tuesday evening; there was no information available on the collective count for Wednesday.

Judging from figures of the closing time on Wednesday, the rate of vote registration increase in most of the above mentioned areas was between 30 to 50 per cent in comparison to Monday and Tuesday.

Other reports gathered on voter registration from various parts of the Kingdom on Wednesday evening were as follows: Mafrag Governorate (37,000), Karak Governorate (34,800), Ajloun District (26,554), Jerash District (25,000), Irbid (21,000), Ma'an (29,900) and southern Shuneh District (11,000).

Again, the vote registration count in the aforementioned areas and districts rose between 25 to 50 per cent from figures obtained on Monday and Tuesday.

Several elements have contributed to the increase in people registering: the extension of registration time by two-hours a day, full-fledged electioneering and lobbying by candidates and their supporters, and a higher public awareness level and a growing media campaign all over the Kingdom.

CRD estimates of voter registration

In another related development, the Civil Registration Department (CRD) whose "family books" (daftar al 'aileh) have been exclusively named by the government as the document for voter registration said Wednesday it has to date registered 556,238 Jordanian families and issued them family books.

CRD Director General Adnan Mirza was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying these registered families comprise nearly 3,671,053 people, of whom 1,894,147 are males.

Israeli cabinet deadlocked

(Continued from page 1)

national conference, creating an historic opportunity for peace.

In an apparent climbdown from earlier threats to pull his Labour Party out of the government, Mr. Peres said: "I do not think we have to present an ultimatum to the Likud and I do not think the Likud has to give us an ultimatum."

If Labour withdrew the result would be a minority Likud government, which was not what the voters had wanted, he said.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a senior Labour figure, told reporters: "If I thought that by going into opposition there was a chance of early elections, I would go for it."

Political analysts said Labour could not at present muster the 61 votes required to dissolve the 120-member Knesset (parliament) and force early elections. The next poll is scheduled for November 1988.

Political commentators said Mr. Shamir appeared to have called Mr. Peres' bluff over the threats to bring down the government and left him stranded without a clear strategy.

The handful of independent members and the religious parties who hold the balance in Israel's fragmented parliament seem to be leaning toward Likud in exchange for pledges of safe seats at the next election and concessions on key religious issues.

The nine-party government has survived dozens of crises over the last 31 months and scored notable successes, taming runaway inflation and extricating Israel from its entanglement in Lebanon.

Mr. Peres handed over the premiership to Mr. Shamir last October in a power-sharing agreement signed in 1984 after a dead-heat election.

Political sources said Mr. Peres would probably try to paralyse the government now and generate public pressure for an election, but he risked losing much of the popularity he has acquired over the last 2 1/2 years.

After the three-and-a-half-hour inner cabinet meeting, Mr. Peres indefinitely postponed his trip to Washington, which had been scheduled for later Wednesday.

McFarlane: Reagan was briefed

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. McFarlane: "Frequently, yes sir."

"On how many occasions?"

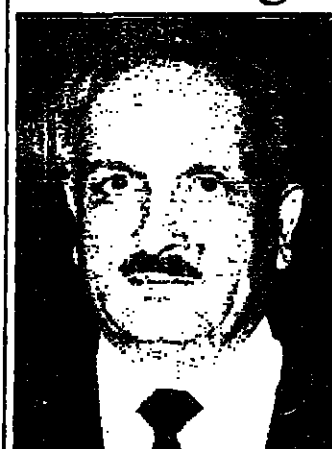
Mr. McFarlane: "Dozens."

The nature of the help sought by the president was not specified.

Mr. Reagan said Wednesday that Saudi Arabia's King Fahd raised the question of Saudi aid to the contra rebels at a White House meeting in 1985 and told

Road to independence: A parliamentary history of Jordan

Distinguished members of Jordan's Parliaments: 1928-present



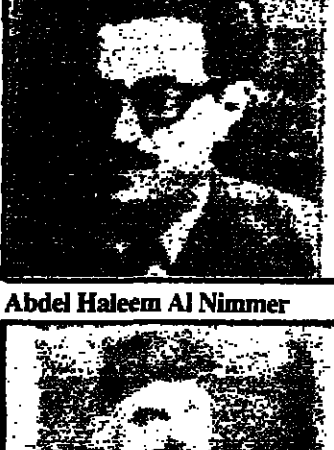
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Akef Al Fayed



Mustafa Khalifa



Abdel Haleem Al Nimmer



Salah Touqan



Said Al Mufti



Hikmat Al Masri



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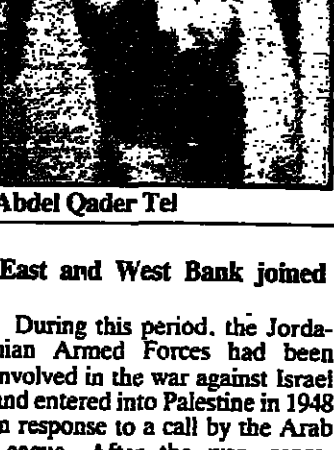
Ahmad Al Ta-awneh



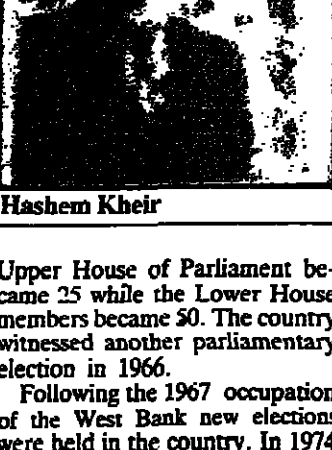
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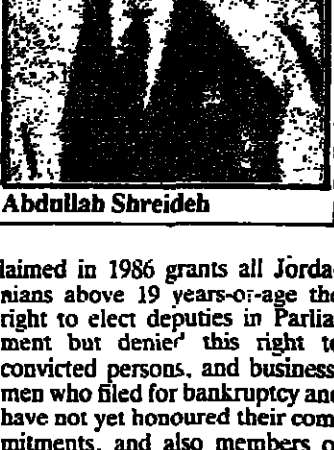
Omar Mattar



Abdel Qader Tel



Hashem Kheir



Abdullah Shreideh

As voters continue to register their names for future parliamentary election in the Kingdom, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, has released the following feature about parliamentary life in the country:

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's modern history began to take shape with the arrival in Amman in March 1921 of the late king, Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, grandfather of His Majesty King Hussein. This date also marked a turning point in the history of the Arab region, when the late king established the Transjordan Emirate in the East Bank, thus thwarting world Zionism's dream of including this territory within the so-called Jewish national home, granted them through the Balfour Declaration in 1917.

The king formed a government and set up a consultative council chaired by the late Rashid Talie, thus opening the way for the public to participate in the decision-making process in the emirate.

National Charter laid down

The king, who was an emir at that time, then negotiated with Britain for Jordan's independence in 1923. It was in 1928 that the first national conference was held in Amman with the participation of nearly 150 heads of bedouin tribes in the emirate and intellectuals from the various regions of the country. This conference laid down the country's National Charter.

This charter clearly states that the emirate is an independent entity, governed by Emir Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein through its own constitution and with temporary assistance from Britain on the basis of mutual benefits.

The charter made it clear that the Balfour Declaration, which promised a national home for the Jews in Palestine, contradicted all Britain's previous promises to the Arabs and ran contrary to the interests of the local population.

It was the National Charter that gave credence to parliamentary life in the country by clearly stating that members of parliament should represent the people in conformity with the constitution.

First legislative council

The first legislative council was formed in April 1929. The council endorsed the Anglo-Jordanian treaty. This 14-member house,

was soon dissolved due to the lack of cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities of the country over differences among members of the government, then headed by Hassan Abul Huda.

It was during the mandate of the first legislative council that also proclaimed a new constitution for the Kingdom.

The Jordanian Parliament, according to the constitution, was then composed of the Upper House (the Senate) and the Lower House (the House of Deputies) with the latter being elected by the people. The constitution provided that the Lower House should fairly represent all sectors and minorities in society and should have a mandate of four years; the members of the Upper House should not exceed half the number of the Lower House, should be appointed by the King and serve for a period of eight years.

The election law of 1947 stated that the number of the Lower House of Parliament should not exceed 20 and the Upper House should not exceed 10 in all. Both houses of Parliament held their first meetings in 1947 and were dissolved in 1950.

Jordan gains independence from Britain

Soon after the war Britain honoured its promise and granted Jordan its independence in 1946. The two countries signed a new friendship and alliance treaty, which was approved by Jordan's

legislative council that also proclaimed a new constitution for the Kingdom.

During this period, the Jordanian Armed Forces had been involved in the war against Israel and entered into Palestine in 1948 in response to a call by the Arab League. After the war, representatives of the West Bank of Jordan approached Emir Abdullah for unity of the two banks and several meetings were held afterwards endorsing the idea which was subsequently approved by the government in Amman and both houses of Parliament.

This unified country adopted the Jordanian constitution and regarded Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein as king of the two banks which formed the Kingdom. Later, a new Parliament was elected grouping representatives of the East and West Banks of Jordan.

East and West Bank joined

Upper House of Parliament became 25 while the Lower House members became 50. The country witnessed another parliamentary election in 1966.

Following the 1967 occupation of the West Bank new elections were held in the country. In 1974 Parliament held a session which authorised the King to postpone elections in view of the occupation of West Bank.

In 1978 King Hussein called for the formation of the National Consultative Council to temporarily take the place of the Parliament which was dissolved. But this council was dissolved in 1978 by a Royal Decree which also called the old Parliament into extraordinary session and introduced amendments to the constitution to fill the vacant seats in the House.

Several amendments were later introduced to the constitution to adapt it to the new arrangement by which the members of the

Upper House of Parliament became 25 while the Lower House members became 50. The country witnessed another parliamentary election in 1966.

Following the 1967 occupation of the West Bank new elections were held in the country. In 1974 Parliament held a session which authorised the King to postpone elections in view of the occupation of West Bank.

In 1978 King Hussein called for the formation of the National Consultative Council to temporarily take the place of the Parliament which was dissolved. But this council was dissolved in 1978 by a Royal Decree which also called the old Parliament into extraordinary session and introduced amendments to the constitution to fill the vacant seats in the House.

The new election law pro-

claimed in 1986 grants all Jordanians above 19 years-of-age the right to elect deputies in Parliament but denies this right to convicted persons, and businessmen who filed for bankruptcy and have not yet honoured their commitments, and also members of the Armed Forces, public security and civil defence, as long as they are in service.

According to the law, candidates running for election should be: Jordanian citizens for at least 10 years, registered in the voters' lists, above 30 years of age, not convicted of any crime, not involved in an illegal organisation, not receiving material benefit from any government department through renting land or property, and not a relative of the King to a certain degree prescribed by law. Government employees, mayors, and heads of village councils cannot run as candidates for Parliament, according to the election law.

Austerity is the problem

By Dr. Nayef S. Zubi

IN his remarks before the World Affairs Council in Amman, reported in the 29-30 January, 1987 issue of the Jordan Times, Dr. Khalil Salem, provided an assessment of Jordan's current economic slowdown. Regrettably, the call for belt tightening continues to be the theme; and the root canal theory of economics continues to underlie economic thinking among many writing on the subject. It does not work if it does not hurt; people should endure more suffering before they can see the light at the end of the tunnel; the economy should pass through deeper recessions and contractions before getting to the peak of economic recovery. These are all standard logical propositions of those who believe that the problem lies in people consuming and demanding too much, and not in misguided economic policies.

The austerity measures that Dr. Salem calls for, sound familiar. One can find his advice in former President Carter's speeches blaming the American people to have been living beyond their means. One can lift his words from Nobel Laureate James Tobin's 1975 report on Puerto Rico. A report that called for import restrictions, higher taxes, and a larger role for government committees.

The problem is not with Jordanian people, as it was not with the American or Puerto Rican people. The problem continues to be in the accumulated effects of misguided economic policies over the years. The solution should not start by blaming people, but by correcting policies. Public lecturing to an already hard-pinched and suffering population, is not the way to proceed, and would not work in the end. Surely my family, living in Jordan, does not appreciate Dr. Salem's call for belt tightening. They have their belt tightened enough. And so does the average Jordanian family. For one, they do not contribute much to our energy bill: They do not have a car, nor do they own centrally heated homes. For another, if they are to replace their aging Aladdins, they have to pay their share of the importation restriction bill.

The symptoms of Jordan's ailing economy are identified by Dr. Salem as:

1. massive imports, of which 57 per cent are luxury items! The luxury items include energy, jewelry, cars, education, and travel;
2. an increase in the overall indebtedness by more than 15 folds, during the last 13 years;
3. decline in foreign currency reserves;
4. huge investments in non-lucrative projects;
5. a rigid exchange policy; and
6. an overall political instability in the Middle East, and the

linkage of economic integration to political development.

Obviously, the overall political instability in the area, and the past undertaking of ill-conceived investments, continue to hurt the prospects for economic recovery. To call, however, for contradictory measures, and to suggest that fixed exchange rate policy might not be suitable, will not set the stage for recovery.

The curb on importation that has already started through a wide range of protectionist measures, that have covered a wide range of economic activities continues to hurt. The call for further curbs under the current economic slowdown means what it simply means: That Jordanians will buy less with a given amount of work effort. In effect, this action alone will lower the wages a Jordanian receives, and will harm Jordan.

The fact of the matter is, that Jordan should pursue a policy of an orderly reduction of import restrictions. That policy will assure that firms can employ more labour for a given amount of gross wages. Equivalently, the gross wages will fall for the same level of employment. Logic tells us that lower gross wages will attract more use of the highly fungible factor: Capital. Productivity will increase, and so will personal savings, a fall in unemployment will follow.

There is no secret revealed in mentioning that the higher stock prices of Aladdin Industries and Arab Aluminium manufacturing, observed after their protection from foreign competition, should have come from somewhere. Redistributing the pieces of the pie, does not mean, that the end result would necessarily be a bigger pie. It might be, a smaller pie as well.

Also, providing the Jordan cement factories company, an interest-free loan of JD 57.5 million, and attaching the government guarantee to the company's most recent bank loan of JD 12 million, are not without a cost. A strained capital market, and a sure promise for further future taxes will be an expected outcome. An assessment of the implicit cost in all kinds of government intervention is what a rational economic policy should pursue. Calling for more sacrifice, more belt tightening misses the point, and by a wide margin.

The high energy bill that Dr. Salem calls for targeting, includes at the present a consumption tax. To suggest higher consumption tax, cannot help recovery, and will lower the standard of living of the Jordanian citizen. It will also penalise heavy industrial users. Encouraging the implementation of conservation measures, and the use of alternative energy sources is a much better way to proceed. The last thing one should do in a down economy is calling for more

taxes, whether implicit or explicit.

The decline in the stock market is not difficult to understand. The political uncertainty engulfing the whole area, the depressed oil markets, and the resulting depressed demand for goods and services explains it pretty well. Business Finance 101 teaches us that the value of an asset — real or financial — in no more than discounted future cash flows. Uncertainty simply means higher discount factor, and as such depressed asset prices. The point is simple: The uncertainty means that people would ask exceptionally high returns for newly issued securities, and would depress those already in existence. Should we blame the widows, the orphans, and the investors whose their lifetime savings are at stake, if they were more cautious, when someone comes and promises them the moon?

Finally, pointing to the attending problems of a rigid exchange rate policy simply misses the fact that the Jordan dinar, though fixed in relative terms, is not fixed in absolute terms. The Jordan-dinar linkage to the Special Drawing Rights (SDR), the latter being no more than a basket of freely floating currencies, does not translate into fixed or rigid exchange rates. The question, however, remains whether such a basket truly reflects the average international transactions of Jordan in both current and capital accounts. And that, is an empirical question; and should not be left to those who claim knowledge better than the markets. Healthy trade relations and an orderly access to financial capital markets are both conditioned by stable exchange rates.

While one cannot help but admire Dr. Salem's intellect, it is the shortcoming of his economic analysis, that I am quarrelling with here. Dr. Salem should have recognised that lowering the standard of living of the Jordanian people is not the road to recovery; it is our sure path to deeper recessions, contraction, and misery. Blaming the Jordanians to have been living beyond their means, and neglecting the implicit taxes that inefficiencies and government interventions bring about, deflects attention from the core of the problem. Given more say to people in running their economic affairs is the road to recovery. The calls for austerity, sacrifice, and belt tightening is the problem. The answer lies in the people.

Dr. Nayef S. Zubi is a Ph.D. graduate in Business-Finance and Business Economics. He is also a graduate of USC's School of Engineering — Los Angeles. Dr. Zubi taught at the University of Southern California, Graduate School of Business, California. He contributed this for the Jordan Times.

Ridiculous standoff

ISRAELI leaders clamoured yesterday to explain, each to his perceived advantage, the meaning of the ridiculous standoff that their inner cabinet has reached on the question of the Middle East peace conference. The alignment leader, Shimon Peres, tried to put on a brave face, saying there was nothing in the standoff to prevent him from continuing work on the proposed conference. While the Likud leader and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir countered by insisting that the deadlock meant no minister in his cabinet was entitled to go on working for the conference.

It is a ridiculous tie: first, because those in Israel who sense that an opportunity for peace truly exists through holding the conference cannot possibly proceed any further from this point; and, second, because it is evident that an Israeli government, headed and staffed by men like Shamir and his Likud comrades, would never allow a chance for peace to be grasped by any Israeli government.

What the Likud leaders want is not an equitable and lasting settlement with the Arabs. Shamir and Co. are after separate negotiations with Jordan that would facilitate Israeli annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. To them, opposition to the international conference is based not so much on the reasons they give publicly (an international conference would allow the big powers to impose an Arab-style settlement on Israel, for instance), but on the belief that such a conference would shatter their dream of reconciling greater Israel with hopes for peace in the region.

Shimon Peres and his Labour Party know this only too well. And that is why they should also know that much more than breaking the deadlock with the Likud is needed from them to bring peace to the area.

Shamir appears reluctant to go to the Israeli electorate on his as-i-peace platform. This is understandable. But even then, Peres' alignment cannot harbour grand designs for peace while being itself a prisoner of the electorate.

udes in Israel have to change considerably before real peace can grow and materialise. This change cannot come about while Shamir and fellow extremists hold

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Coordinating positions

KING Hussein's visit to Cairo and his talks with President Mubarak are considered as part of the Egyptian-Jordanian drive to coordinate their positions with regard to the coming international conference and the developments on the Arab and international scenes. The two leaders are taking steps to deal with any eventuality on the diplomatic scene and with regard to the outcome of the Israeli cabinet meeting which would decide on whether Tel Aviv would accept the idea of the conference or opt to carry out parliamentary elections that would determine the issue. Both Cairo and Amman have been following events and developments on this subject and in the past week they were involved in discussing economic and social cooperation through the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee. But the meeting of the two leaders is clearly aimed at following up on the diplomatic developments and is seen as a manifestation of the two countries' keenness on joining hands and bolstering Arab solidarity. Without showing solidarity now, the Arabs are bound to remain weak and exposed to enemy pressure. Without bridges of understanding and cooperation among Arab states, the Arab Nation would remain impotent and incapable of taking any meaningful steps to regain its lost rights and territory.

Al Dustour: Lobbying for peace

KING Hussein's talks with President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo come amid a flurry of regional and international activity for convening an international conference designed to bring about peace to the Middle East. Jordan and Egypt have been pre-occupied with the question of the conference, and have been exerting tremendous efforts over the past two years for the sake of holding such conference and enlisting support and backing from the international community for such meeting. Therefore, we believe that the meeting in Cairo was of utmost importance especially at this high level, and by two Arab countries which have borne the brunt in the Palestine question and shouldered so much responsibility towards the Palestinian people. In the absence of a joint action on the part of the whole Arab Nation, such meeting between the King and the Egyptian president seems to be necessary and serving as an alternative for a pan-Arab action. We look to such meetings as steps towards bolstering inter-Arab action, and towards further coordination between the two countries in expectation of developments in the coming stage. There is no doubt that the most important issue at the moment is the international conference and the two leaders are bent to remove all obstacles in its way.

Sawt Al Shaab: Promoting peace

DESPITE the confusion that still shrouds the subject of the international conference and the Middle East developments, Jordan has been persistent on pursuing contacts and consultations with Arab countries to reach consensus on a unified strategy. Jordan has been seeking to bolster inter-Arab cooperation and pooling Arab resources and efforts for the sake of holding an international conference that would regain Arab rights and restore Arab territory. The meeting between King Hussein and President Mubarak in Cairo came at a time when the Israeli leadership is continuing to place obstacles in the path of such conference in a bid to undermine efforts for peace. The talks between the two leaders constitute another constructive step towards coordinating Arab efforts to abort Israel's evil designs and for convening the coming conference. The world is now awaiting Israel's approval of this conference which the Arabs want to convene for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question. Therefore, a strong Arab stand and joint action can help convene this conference and ensure the return of lost territory to Arab people in Palestine.

Moroccan wall threatens Mauritania's neutrality

Mauritania has observed a neutral stance in the battle which its northern neighbour, Morocco, is waging against Polisario guerrillas in the Western Sahara. However, this neutrality is now threatened as the guerrillas may be forced to use Mauritania territory as a route to the ocean to avoid a defensive wall recently built by Morocco, reports Peter Blackburn, recently in the Mauritanian port of Nouadhibou.

MAURITANIA'S neutrality in the long running war in the Western Sahara has been threatened by the construction by Morocco of a sixth defensive wall close to its strategically important iron ore railway line.

The 550 kilometre-wall — a ridge of rock and sand reinforced by mines and electronic scanners — is intended to bar the Algerian-backed Polisario direct access to the Atlantic Ocean.

The Polisario have for the past 12 years been fighting for the independence of the former Spanish Sahara which is now administered by Morocco.

The Polisario have made a number of seaborne attacks on foreign fishing vessels and light aircraft in an apparent change of tactics after the defensive walls made land based raids much more difficult.

The sixth wall protects Morocco's southern flank and completes a defensive wall system of more than 1,200 miles. It means that the Polisario will now be obliged to pass through Mauritania territory in order to reach the ocean.

Mauritanian President Maouya Sid Ahmed Ould Taya has described the situation on the

northern frontier — especially the 140-mile stretch from the small border town of Inal to the ocean — as "serious."

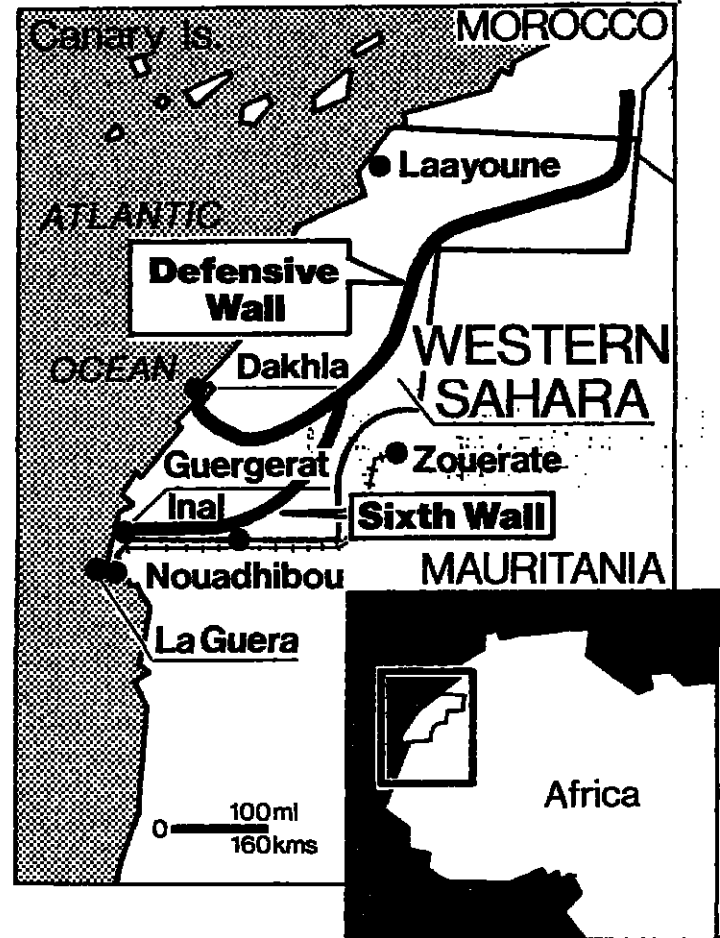
A recent skirmish between Polisario and Moroccan troops near Inal, where the wall is only 400 yards distant, increased Mauritanian fears.

A ministerial communiqué said that "the massive and permanent presence of foreign troops so close to our vital centres is unacceptable."

The communiqué added that measures have been taken to guarantee the security of the northern port of Nouadhibou, the country's economic capital.

No details were given but analysts say that the former Spanish garrison of La Guera, four miles across the desert peninsula from Nouadhibou, has probably been reinforced with Mauritanian troops. Border surveillance has been increased and more troops stationed along the railway line, especially from Inal to the ocean where the wall runs parallel at a distance of little over a mile away.

The railway carries some 9 million tonnes of iron ore from the mines at Zouerate to the port of Nouadhibou and is vital to the



Mauritanian economy.

At Nouadhibou there was little sign of extra security and the fishing and iron ore industries, which account for virtually all the

country's exports, were operating normally.

Although the iron ore trains continue to run as usual, this correspondent was refused per-

mission to make the 400-mile journey to Zouerate.

"There is tension in the area and we cannot afford to take any risks, especially with foreigners," Mr. Dah Ould Cheikh, the governor of Nouadhibou region, explained.

The Mauritanian military regime of President Taya is nervous about being dragged back into the conflict, analysts say.

The former civilian regime of President Moktar Ould Daddah was overthrown in 1978 by the military after a disastrous four-year war alongside Morocco against the Polisario. A peace treaty was signed in 1979 and Mauritania gave up the southern third of the former Spanish Sahara except for the strategically important garrison of La Guera.

Since Col. Taya took over just over two years ago he has sought strict neutrality in contrast to his predecessor Col. Haidalla who was seen as too sympathetic towards the Polisario.

Many northern Mauritians have close ethnic and cultural ties with the Polisario and support its struggle for self-determination, analysts say. They are also suspicious of their powerful northern neighbour's ambitions — in 1969 Morocco claimed all of Mauritania down to the Senegal river.

President Taya restored diplomatic relations with Morocco in 1985 while continuing to recognise the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. Internally he has given priority to restoring the

country's drought- and war-ravaged economy.

Although improved rains helped to increase the cereal harvest to 95,000 tonnes in 1986, compared with 20,000 tonnes in 1984, Mauritania still imports nearly two-thirds of its food.

Food self-sufficiency is a receding target, according to some aid donors. Desert already covers 75 per cent of the country and is advancing by four miles a year.

Major reforms in food policy, including the promotion of "Food for Work" programmes and reduced distribution of free food, are part of the conditions attached to the first World Bank structural adjustment loan of some \$40 million due to be approved early June. Banking, energy, fisheries, iron ore mining and institutional reforms are also included in the programme.

The Taya regime has made a big effort over the past two years to promote economic recovery. "The last thing it wants is to be dragged back into the Saharan war," one aid donor in Nouakchott said.

However, Mauritania may find itself powerless to prevent the Polisario using its territory to launch further sea and land raids and this could provoke reprisals from Morocco. If this happens Mauritania may feel the need to invoke its military cooperation agreement with France in order to help preserve its territorial integrity — Financial Times feature.

Labour has to claw back biggest ever losses to beat Thatcher

By Brian Mooney
Reuter

LONDON — As the British general election campaign begins, the odds are stacked firmly in favour of the ruling Conservatives.

Only a new generation of voters who have known no other prime minister but Margaret Thatcher, plus the ebb and flow of campaign fortunes, a volatile electorate and a three-way split in the vote inject some uncertainty into the June 11 poll.

To beat Thatcher outright for control of the 650-member House of Commons, Neil Kinnock's opposition Labour Party has to capture 122 seats it does not hold while the alliance of Liberals and Social Democrats would need an additional 299.

History, alone, seems able to give comfort to the opposition. Britons have in the past displayed a capacity for dumping seemingly invincible leaders. Winston Churchill was booted out of office in a general election after World War II and David Lloyd-George was ditched against all odds in 1922.

Also, no prime minister has won a third term in a row since the modern British parliamentary system was established with the great reform act in 1832.

Thatcher's Conservatives are defending a bloc of 391 seats and before the announcement on Monday of early elections they could have stayed in office until the expiry of their five-year mandate in June 1988.

Labour currently holds 204 seats and the alliance 27 — 19 for David Steel's Liberals and eight for David Owen's Social Democrats.

The average of the last six opinion polls put support for the Conservatives at just over 41 per cent. This is sufficient to secure them another comfortable majority even though most analysts expect the electorate to clip Thatcher's wings by giving her not quite such a massive majority.

In the same series of polls, support for Labour stood at 31.6 per cent while the alliance trailed in third place at just under 25 per cent.

Local elections on May 7 gave the Conservatives approximately 39 per cent, Labour 31 per cent and the alliance 26 per cent.

All the parties will be targeting the "Thatcher generation" — just under six million voters, some 16 per cent of the electorate, who have reached the voting age of 18 since Thatcher first came to power in 1979. Almost three million youngsters will be eligible to vote for the first time.

As most seats are already firmly in the hands of entrenched supporters of Conservatives or Conservatives, the parties will also be concentrating on some 112 marginal constituencies where the election will be effectively won and lost.

Labour is fighting not just for power but also for survival as the main opposition party.

Its share in the popular vote has declined from a highwater mark of 48.8 per cent in 1951 to 27.6 per cent in the June 1983 election when it suffered its biggest ever loss of support. In the previous election in 1979, Labour had won 36.9 per cent of the vote and 269 of the then 635 parliamentary seats.

The slump has been mirrored in part by the diminishing size of

Britain's traditional working class. Manual labourers accounted for 47 per cent of the population in the 1960s, today they represent less than 34 per cent.

Other parallel shifts in class and ownership patterns have changed Britain since Thatcher

came to power.

Share ownership has roughly trebled from seven per cent of the adult population in 1979 to nearly 20 per cent, or some 8.5 million people.

At the same time, the proportion of Britons who own their homes rather than live in local

government-subsidised rented accommodation rose from 52 per cent to 66 per cent.

Under Thatcher, trade union membership has also declined from 30 per cent of the electorate to 24 per cent.

If the Labour Party can recover to above 250 seats, it will be able

to claim it is back in business. Anything less than 250 after nearly 10 years of Thatcher could be reckoned a disaster.

Of the candidates selected in Labour's 130 target seats more than half are far to the left of the party leadership.

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WELCOME BIG SALE

From athletes to accountants, everyone has a hall of fame in U.S.

By Boris Weintraub
National Geographic

CHICAGO — Most Americans are familiar with the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., or the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, or the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

But did you know there is a Candy Makers Hall of Fame in Hershey, Pa.; an Alabama Turkey Hunters Hall of Fame in Linden, Ala.; the National Humour Hall of Fame, address Box HoHo, in Le Claire, Iowa; a Christian Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio; a Big Band Hall of Fame in Wilmington, Del.; or a Dog Musers Hall of Fame in Kulk, Alaska?

Did they say "drainage"?

There are Accountants. Insurance, and Drainage halls of fame in Columbus, Ohio. There is an Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio; but also a National Aviation Hall of Fame in Hammond, N.Y. The National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame near Hayward, Wis., is distinguished by a 140-foot sculpture of a muskellunge, something that is absent from the Texas Salt Water Fishing Hall of Fame on Galveston Island.

The Racing Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., has no connection with the Hall of Fame of the Trotter in Goshen, N.Y. Here in Chicago, the new Junior Achievement National

Business Hall of Fame is going great guns at the Museum of Science and Industry, just a floor away from the Nobel Hall of Immortals. The National Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame has been so successful that it is moving to a larger building in the suburbs. But the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame consists only of photographs hanging in a Soldier Field concourse.

The 13 members of the Hall of Fame of the International College of Surgeons, from Im-hotep to Mme. Curie, are immortalised in larger-than-life statues.

But the Pickle Packers Hall of Fame exists only in a series of photographs and citations in the Pickle Makers Guild's annual directory; and the Chicago Black Athletes Hall of Fame has not yet chosen any inductees, though it hopes to do so by next fall. If, as Emily Dickinson wrote, "fame is a tickle foot, upon a shifting plate," Americans seem intent upon freeze-drying it in a bewildering array of halls of fame. Name a sport, an activity, a location, an ethnic group, and chances are there is a hall of fame somewhere attempting to convey immortality.

Reflection of hero worship

Victor Danilov, who recently retired as director of the Museum of Science and Industry and was instrumental in bringing the Nobel and business halls of fame to the museum, has concluded that halls of fame are "an Amer-

ican phenomenon that apparently reflects the national desire for hero worship."

There are an estimated 600 or so of them in this country, as opposed to only a handful in other countries.

"In many cases, it's not just an honour, but a cause that's being promoted," says Danilov. "For example, ethnic halls of fame honour someone from that heritage, but they also cause people to pay attention to Italians, or blacks, or whatever."

The pioneer was the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, begun in 1900 on what was then the Bronx campus of New York University. The Baseball Hall of Fame came next, in 1939. But the big boom began in the 1950s, as Americans began to lavish attention, zeal, and money on things that were important to them. By the late 1970s, a new hall of fame was being created every month.

A lot of attention in the last few years has gone to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, which will be built in Cleveland. The group behind it has been negotiating with architect I.M. Pei to design the \$25 million building.

But the less-expensive halls of fame in the Chicago area are, as a group, more typical of halls throughout the country.

The Nobel Hall of Immortals honours American winners of Nobel Prizes in physics, chemistry, or physiology or medicine. A slide show tells the history of the prizes; a film includes such exotica as George Bernard

Shaw's speech at the 1921 Nobel Prize dinner for Albert Einstein. Artifacts include a doodle pad used by physicist Tsung-dao Lee, who won the 1957 award.

The Chicago Sports Hall of Fame was created in 1979 by a promotional enterprise by a brewery, and turned over to the Chicago Park District in 1982. The inductees range from well-known figures to some virtually unknown even in Chicago.

Fame Italian style

George Randazzo founded the National Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame in 1978 to support youth programmes. Joe DiMaggio and Eddie Arcaro attended their induction dinner. "That gave the organisation credibility," says Randazzo. Soon he was collecting memorabilia for display: Rocky Marciano's championship belt, Mario Andretti's racing car, Primo Camera's size-18 boxing shoes. Randazzo stresses that the hall aims "to promote Italian-Americans in a positive way."

A similar notion guides Carol Thomas and her associates as they plan the Chicago black Athletes Hall of Fame, to be housed in the DuSable Museum of African-American History. "We want to honour those athletes who have given something back to the community, people who were role models," she says. Five will be chosen each year.

And then there are those halls of which Danilov comments, "They



Hardly shy about his new bronze star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, comedian Dom DeLuise leads friends in cheering and applause. The walk exemplifies the spirit that has led Americans to establish about 600 halls of fame honouring dog musers, pickle packers, and others who excel in their craft.

sound better than they are. A lot of them are collections of clothing, photos, diaries, and letters just stacked in the corner."

Perhaps the most noteworthy of these is the collection of one

Jennie Lee in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. Known professionally as "The Broom Girl," Ms. Lee hopes to develop her collection into a proper home for the Exotic Dancers Hall of Fame.

Randa Habib's Corner

Petra facilities

DO you know that 15,000 tourists visited Petra in the month of April alone? Impressive number isn't it? Even more impressive when one considers that the basic facilities provided in Petra are "shrinking" with the time instead of developing.

First of all, once tourists arrive into Petra itself, there is no place where they can relax. The one storey building there, owned half by the Department of Antiquities and half by a hotel chain, which used to run the only restaurant there, is now closed to the public. The reason is that the hotel chain found it too expensive to keep the restaurant open, while the museum that the Antiquity Department thought of having in that same building, has not materialised. As a result, the building is closed and with it the basic facilities that visitors could use. As for the former small hotel in the Kasr Al Bint area, it was handed over by the owners to the Antiquity Department and is only being used by archaeology teams and is not open for the public.

In fact, what is happening is that tourists, visiting Petra for the day, can only use the tea-shop run by a bedouin just in front of the museum. There, they may have a cup of tea in the open air and eat their picnic lunches, at the terrace. But still no facilities, no toilets. Anyone with an urgent need will have to go to the hotel in Wadi Musa.

Certainly the Department of Antiquities should think of a way of reopening the nice building that exists already. I heard that the maintenance expenses of the electricity generator were the main reason for the closing of the building. Really we can't be calculating that much... our piasters.

Remnants of World War II still on Bangladesh roads

By Anis Ahmed
Reuters

KAUKHALI, Bangladesh — More than 40 years after the end of the Second World War, a fleet of jeeps abandoned by British forces provides the main form of public transport for thousands of people in Bangladesh.

But although the sturdy old vehicles have an impressive safety record, passengers have to be prepared to get out and push occasionally.

"They are old and battered, but safe even on poor roads," said a traffic policeman in this small southern Bangladesh town.

He said the jeeps were the main means of transport for thousands of people in the Chittagong hill tracts, travelling over some of Bangladesh's most rugged and dangerous roads.

Former President Ziaur Rahman, visiting the hill tracts a year before he was killed in an abortive military coup in May 1981, nicknamed the jeep "moon buggies."

The name, highlighting the similarities between Bangladesh country roads and the lunar terrain astronauts must negotiate, has stuck.

The Bangladesh buggies can carry up to 25 people, several of

them sitting jauntily on the bonnet, and seemingly impossible quantities of merchandise.

Fares are low but all passengers, except the sick, must be ready to lend a hand when the vehicle needs a push to get it started or when it hesitates up a steep road.

They also have to be prepared to direct the driver, who often sits behind passengers and their belongings.

The buggies are mainly uncovered, although some drivers do provide umbrellas for their passengers.

Sharif Hossain has driven a buggy for 12 years, and proudly boasted to Reuters: "It has never failed me."

Time was beginning to take its toll, Hossain added, and one of the main difficulties was spare parts.

Genuine jeep spares had long been exhausted, he said, and locally-made substitutes were last long.

Another driver pointed out that age was the jeep's main safety feature.

"Driving a new vehicle gives one a kind of jovial sensation that often leads to mishaps. Old cars are much safer," said Moqbul Ahmad.

Third of U.S. homeless are families with children

By William M. Welch
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than one-third of the homeless people in selected major U.S. cities are families with children, said a study released May 9.

The survey of 29 cities by the U.S. Conference of Mayors reported the number of families requesting emergency shelter during the last year increased by an average 31 per cent. Only one city reported the number had not increased.

"Families, primarily single-parent families, make up a substantial portion of the homeless population," said Charleston, South Carolina, Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr., president of the Conference of Mayors.

"Too often the requests for homeless families for emergency shelter are going unmet, as are their needs for other services," he said.

The conference of big-city mayors released the report of its task force on hunger and homelessness, saying it documents a growing problem of homelessness and housing shortages in urban America.

Each of the surveyed cities cited the lack of affordable housing as one of the main causes of homelessness. A lack of jobs was identified as the cause in two-thirds of the cities, and a majority cited inadequate public assistance benefits and problems with welfare programmes.

The study said families represented just over one-third of the homeless population in the surveyed cities, and well over two-thirds of those families were headed by single parents.

Shelter beds have increased by 21 per cent over the last two years in those cities, it said, and many more homeless were reported to be doubling up in housing with friends or relatives.

Mauritania disappears into the desert

By Tom Holmes
Reuters

NOUAKCHOTT — "It looked as if we were landing in a snowstorm except that it was like stepping into a furnace," said an amazed traveller.

Mauritania's capital, Nouakchott, was again shrouded by one of the Sahara's stifling sandstorms, with the midday sun reduced to a pale twilight glow.

Although close to the Atlantic Ocean, Nouakchott has been engulfed by the spreading desert. The moonscape-scenery is covered with shale and snow-white sand. There are no trees and only a few sparse shrubs.

Some 85 per cent of Mauritania's one million square kilometres is now covered by desert, which continues to advance at the rate of six kilometres a year, according to a United Nations report.

Livestock farming, one of the country's main sources of wealth, has been compressed into a narrow band of pastureland above the Senegal River in the south of the country.

The population has migrated southwards, and nomad herders have been forced to settle in shantytowns where they can survive on handouts of food aid.

An estimated 85 per cent of the 1.8 million inhabitants now live in a strip between Nouakchott and the Senegalese border to the south.

Overgrazing and the concentration of population has accelerated the degradation of the fragile environment.

Firewood is the domestic fuel of virtually all Mauritians who are cutting down trees eight times as fast as they grow. About one-third of the country's tree cover, located mainly in the Senegal River basin, has disappeared over the past 10 years.

The country has been affected by drought since 1968, with only short periods of relief, and underground water tables have been receding at over five metres a year.

Although better rains and harvests have been recorded in the past two years, Mauritania still grows only one-third of the food its people need.

Last year's grain crop totalled 95,000 tonnes, a sharp increase on the 20,000 tonnes in 1984. But with annual consumption of some 272,000 tonnes the country is likely to remain the most dependent on food aid in West Africa, according to aid donors.

However the amount of free aid is gradually being reduced while the funds raised from food

sales are being reinvested in agricultural projects.

The government has been making efforts to develop irrigated farming in the Senegal River and Gorgol River valleys. Some 10,000 hectares should be developed by 1990 but this will meet only a fraction of national demand.

"Irrigated farming is capital intensive and expensive. It is difficult to operate and maintain in a largely illiterate society," an aid donor commented.

Flood recession farming in the river valleys is seen as simpler and less ecologically damaging and is likely to remain more important for several years at least.

President Maouya Sid Ahmed Ould Taya, who took over two years ago, has been expanding "food-for-work" programmes, which are encouraged by donors in the hope that they will check the growth of a "soup kitchen mentality" among refugees.

Nouakchott has undergone a major clean-up in the past six months through the food-for-work programme, residents report.

One of the social effects of drought has been to force Berber nomads to sell their herds and settle around the towns.

The country's estimated one million head of cattle has been reduced by more than one third and the 6.5 million sheep and goats by 20 per cent since 1980.

Between 1970-80, it is estimated, two out of every three nomads have settled in the towns. "We have seen the death of a culture," the lords of the desert have been reduced to the beggars of the towns," one observer commented.

The problem is greatest in the capital which was built at independence from France in 1960 as a city for 30,000 people but now shelters nearly 500,000.

The modern city centre is in danger of being overwhelmed by a vast shantytown of makeshift wooden shacks. Most of the city's inhabitants lack running water, electricity or basic health care and education and live a zombie-like existence without work, waiting for the next handout.

Fans pick early favourites in Miss Universe contest

By Jose Katigbak
Reuters

SINGAPORE — While the rest of Asia appears preoccupied with war, politics and trade, Singapore's attention is firmly fixed on some of the most beautiful young women in the world.

The island republic with a reputation for puritanical government is playing host to this year's Miss Universe pageant on May 27.

With the contestants already assembled, fans, photographers and even some of the competitors are pinning hopes for an Asian victory on Miss Philippines, 23-year-old Geraldine Villaluz Asis.

It has been 13 years since an Asian competitor has won the title and some contestants believe both the time and venue are right for an oriental winner.

"Miss Philippines is the tallest of the Asian contestants and because of that and her Asian-European features, I think her chances of winning are good," Miss Thailand, Chutima Naiyana, told Reuters.

Victoria Kwong, chaperon of the five-foot eight-inch (1.73m) Asis, added: "Everyone's been admiring her height and mestiza (Eurasian) features. Provided she doesn't stumble on the catwalk, I think she has an excellent chance of winning."

Asis herself was coy when asked to rate her chances, but said: "If by chance I win I'll donate some of the prize money to the church and the poor."

Other early favourites are Miss U.S.A., Miss New Zealand and Miss Venezuela.

Ines Maria Calero, 18, of Venezuela, hoping to follow in the footsteps of compatriot Barbara Palacios Teyde, the current titleholder, has history against her. Competitors from the same country have never won in successive years since the pageant began in 1952.

The record books do not worry Calero. "I think I have the same chance as anyone," she told Reuters.

"There's always a first time for everything, and I'm sure she'll win," interjected Miss Honduras, Francis Tatiana Reyes.

Miss Hong Kong, Soi Fui



Beauties of the Miss Universe contest in Singapore pose around the Merlion monument, symbol of the city. The merlion has a lion's head and a mermaid's body.

Chung, said if she were a panther she would bet on Miss U.S.A., Michelle Royer, or Miss New Zealand, Ursula Kim Ryan.

Miss England, Yvette Livesey, said everyone had a chance to win but she reckoned: "It's Europe's turn."

Miss Mexico, Cynthia Fallon Garcia Cepeda, was more fatalistic, saying: "It's all up in the hands of the gods."

Only four Asian beauties have become Miss Universe: Akiko Kojima from Japan (1959) Apasara Hongsakula from Thailand

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McEnroe says injury hampering his return

The once No 1 edges Argentine Davin in Italian Open

ROME (R) — John McEnroe said Wednesday a back complaint that has been troubling him for two years could keep him from regaining his world number one form.

McEnroe, who ruled as the game's top men's player from 1981 through 1984, said he had suffered occasional twinges during matches since 1985.

"It has got to the point where when it hurts to play I don't give more than 75 per cent," he said. But the 28-year-old American said he had felt no discomfort during his three-set victory at the Italian Open here over Argentine teenager Franco Davin, which ended early Wednesday morning after two power cuts blacked out the centre court.

McEnroe said the injury had been the main reason why he had not played in this year's Japan Open and lay behind his decision last year to take a six and a half month break from the game.

He said he had tried everything to solve the problem but without

success.

"I didn't want to come back until I was 100 per cent fit," he said. "Unfortunately I couldn't do that. I have put myself under quite a lot of stress in the last eight months... it just didn't turn out as planned but that's all past history now."

"It could be just an injury or it could be all the years I have been playing," he said. "But I still feel there's hope... I would like to go back to how I was in 1984 — that's my goal."

In 1984, as world number one, he won his third Wimbledon title, his fourth U.S. Open crown and reached the final of the French Open.

"If it doesn't happen (the recovery), then I'm still had a good career and it's something to be proud of. Maybe I just didn't

quite get the icing on the cake..."

Earlier Wednesday McEnroe had to play extra late before finally securing victory in the early hours at the \$495,000 Italian Open Tennis Championships. It was after midnight (2200 GMT) in Rome when McEnroe completed a 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 first round win over 17-year-old Argentine qualifier Franco Davin, after delays caused by a hitch in the Italian capital's power supply.

A surprisingly equitable McEnroe, who had watched top seeds Ivan Lendl, the defending champion, and Mats Wilander enjoy straight set victories during the afternoon session at the Foro Italico, had reason to thank the two blackouts which halted play on the centre court for a total of 85 minutes.

"It seemed something like that was bound to happen here," McEnroe said later. "I am glad they went out when they did. I guess the chance to sit down and really think helped a bit."

McEnroe, who has set his heart on becoming the first American to win the French Open since Tony Trabert in 1955, said: "If I could win only one of the big four this year then the French has to be the title I would like most."

Champions France get tough draw for World Team Cup

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — Titleholders France were grouped with three other past champions in Wednesday's draw for next week's \$750,000 eight-nation world team cup, the most important men's team tennis event after the Davis Cup.

The French were drawn in the "Blue" Group with the United States, Spain and Argentina. The United States, with John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors teaming up for the first time since winning the tournament in 1985, look the most serious threat to the chances of Henri Leconte, Thierry Tulasne and Guy Forget reaching the final again.

Sweden, last year's losing finalists, will be favourites in the

"Red" Group even though Mats Wilander decided to withdraw on Tuesday. They meet Czechoslovakia, Davis Cup champions Australia and West Germany. Stefan Edberg, Anders Jarryd and Joakim Nyström form a strong squad who hope to end Sweden's surprising failure to win the tournament even though it is played on their favourite clay surface.

The Swedes meet hosts West Germany, who are without Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, in the opening match on Monday with Czechoslovakia facing Australia the same day.

The group winners after a round-robin meet in the final on May 24.

Piquet fit for Belgian Grand Prix after crash

LONDON (R) — Brazil's Nelson Piquet has fully recovered from a 300-kph crash two weeks ago and will take part in practice for this Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix, a spokeswoman for his Williams team said Wednesday.

Piquet sat out the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola on May 3 after he suffered concussion and leg injuries in the crash during the opening practice session.

He had set the fastest practice time and was keen to race despite the crash but doctors refused to give him a medical certificate to take part.

The spokeswoman said Piquet had resumed driving last week and would travel to Belgium with the rest of the team on Thursday. "He is fine and has not had any ill effects from the concussion," the spokeswoman said. "The only thing he has is a little bit of pain from his bruised foot but he will take part."

Brewers, Royals vault into A.L. lead; Bonds is Pittsburgh's hottest hitter

NEW YORK (AP) — The Milwaukee Brewers and Kansas City Royals are travelling in opposite directions.

While reeling Milwaukee lost to Oakland 10-8 Tuesday night for its seventh straight setback and slipped into a virtual tie for first place in the American League East. Kansas City defeated Toronto 3-1 for its seventh victory in nine games and vaulted from fourth place to first in the A.L. West.

"To win, you need good defence, good pitching, hitting and aggressive baserunning," Brewers manager Tom Trebelhorn said. "Every night it's a different component we're breaking down on. You get what you deserve in this game and I'm not crying about losses. When you get that many hits (17) and steal that many bases (three), you expect to win."

The Brewers' lead has reduced to 11 percentage points over New York, which beat Chicago 5-1 in 13 innings. In the west, Kansas City leads California and Seattle by seven points.

In other games, it was Detroit 15, California 2-Boston 3, Seattle 2-Baltimore 10, Minnesota 7, and Texas 6, Cleveland 1.

Royals 3, Blue Jays 1. Bud Black allowed five hits in eight innings and Bill Pecota went 1-for-1, including a solo home run. Black was making only his second start of the year, both against Toronto. He beat the Blue Jays in Kansas City last Tuesday.

Toronto's John Cerutti made his first start of the year and lasted 2-3 innings. Kansas City took a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Angel Salazar doubled. Kevin

Seitzer walked. Juan Beniquez doubled Salazar home and Seitzer scored on Danny Tartaball's sacrifice fly. Pecota homered in the second inning.

Yankees 5, White Sox 4. Mike Pagliarulo's second home run of the game tied the score in the 10th inning and Willie Randolph's single with two out in the 13th won it. Wayne Tolleson led off against Bobby Thigpen with a single and has sacrificed to second by Joel Skinner. After Rickey Henderson grounded out, Randolph linked a drive over the head of left fielder Gary Redus to score Tolleson.

Winner Cecilio Guante pitched the final three innings and allowed one hit as the White Sox suffered their sixth consecutive defeat. Tigers 15, Angels 2. Dan Petry, who has struggled since elbow surgery last summer, allowed three hits in seven innings for his first victory of the season and the Tigers backed him with 18 hits. Petry, who has been the subject of trade rumours for several days, allowed two unearned runs, struck out eight and halted two for his first victory since last Sept. 19.

The Tigers got home runs from Darnell Coles and Mike Heath and scored in each of the first five innings as Oakland starter Urbano Lugo gave up eight runs — only three earned — in 2-1-3 innings and Gary Lucas yielded six more in the next 2-2-3 innings. Red Sox 3, Mariners 2.

Joe Sambrino and Wes Gardner pitched out of jams in the seventh and eighth innings and left fielder Mike Greenell threw the tying run out at the plate to end the game as Boston snapped Seattle's four-game winning streak.

Mike Kingery singled with one out in the Seattle ninth. With two outs, Harold Reynolds hit a fly ball to short left. Shortstop Ed Romero plowed into Greenell but the left fielder recovered and nailed Kingery trying to score. Orioles 10, Thins 7.

Fred Lynn's grand slam tied the score in the eighth inning and pinch hitter Larry Sheets hit a three-run homer with one out in the ninth. Both homers came off Minnesota relief ace Jeff Reardon.

The Orioles, held to five hits through seven innings by Frank Viola, tied the score in the eighth. Viola has lifted after Dave Van Gorder balked to open the eighth. Keith Atherton retired two batters but has replaced by Reardon following a single by Cal Ripken Jr. and a balk to Eddie Murray. Lynn hit a 1-2 pitch for his fifth career grand slam and the second allowed by Reardon in his last three outings. Rangers 6, Indians 1.

Charlie Hough allowed four hits in 7 1-3 innings for his 10th straight victory over Cleveland. Larry Parrish hit a three-run homer and Pete O'Brien drove in two runs with a homer and a single as Texas spoiled Steve Carlton's first start for the Indians.

Hough, who hasn't lost to the Indians since April 1981, improved his career record against Cleveland to 13-1 and didn't allow a run until Brook Jacoby's eighth-inning homer.

Ken Landreaux hit a two-run homer in support of Honeycutt, who had two hits.

Braves 5, Expos 2. Zane Smith has a winner on the mound and at the plate for Atlanta. The left-hander upped his record to 1-1, allowing six hits in 6 1-3 innings before getting solid relief help from Jeff Dedmon. He also had a three-run double in the second inning off Ubaldo Heredia, who making his first major league appearance at the age of 31.

Heredia lasted only four innings, giving up five hits and four runs. So this is what Barry Bonds can do. Bonds, Pittsburgh's 22-year-old second-year outfielder and son of former major league star Bobby Bonds, has been highly touted since joining the Pirates early last season. Until the last 10 games, however, Bonds had shown only glimpses of the talent he possesses.

Right now, Bonds is Pittsburgh's hottest hitter and brightest ballplayer. He has raised his

to take part in them makes a mockery of those ideals," said Rosewall, a former U.S. Open champion.

"Apart from the hypocrisy, the addition of yet another big sport to the games will make the problem of controlling them more and more horrendous," he said.

Court disagreed with Rosewall, saying he believed the inclusion of professional tennis would enhance the reputation of the Olympics.

"The Olympics should feature the best in the world, they should be open to all," Court told Reuters.

"If all the top players turn up,

an Olympic gold medal will rank alongside winning one of the 'big four' tennis titles," said Court, who won a clutch of Wimbledon, French, Australian and U.S. titles.

Countries that reach the quarter-finals of both the Davis Cup and the Federation Cup will qualify for two players in each draw. A number of spots will be saved for wildcards, which will probably be given to players from the strongest tennis countries.

Australia, the Davis Cup holders, are in this year's quarter-finals while their women's team reached the quarter-finals of last year's Federation Cup.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6665/75	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3372/77	Canadian dollar
	1.7953/63	West German marks
	2.0230/40	Dutch guilders
	1.4765/75	Swiss francs
	37.23/26	Belgian francs
	5.9925/75	French francs
	1296/1297	Italian lira
	140.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.6275/6725	Swedish crown
	6.6675/6725	Norwegian crowns
	6.7525/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	459.70/460.20	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices continued steady during a moderate afternoon's trading, moving higher throughout the session as buyers moved back into the market to pick up cheap stock after Tuesday's brisk retreat, dealers said.

By 1400 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 24.8 points to 2,168.1, just below the day's high and looking set to break the closing high record of 2,163.3 set on May 11.

Dealers said the market appears to be settling down after the recent intense speculation over the election call date and is preparing to respond to the anticipated stream of opinion polls during the general election campaign.

Tuesday's gain on Wall Street helped some of the large international companies as did the slightly firmer dollar, but dealers said they saw future price fluctuations being determined by domestic factors during the election run up.

Opinion polls are forecast to hold the key to the market's tone over the coming weeks. Analysts are starting from the basis provided by recent polls that the Conservatives will be returned to power with a comfortable majority. A state of affairs which could take the FTSE 100 well above the 2,200 level.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: All sorts of changes and new arrangements are starting to take shape and are apt to be quite dramatic. Look quietly for the opportunities you need.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have good judgment now and can also benefit from a misfire from one who is far away.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Observe the monetary problems others are having and learn from them. See the friends you like today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may be annoyed with a partner. Listen to the advice of one who thinks logically.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Try to keep calm if something comes up that seems to get in the way of your steady progress.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Arguments between the one you love and others could make for tension, but be loyal to your mate.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Today you have to handle a perplexing situation, but don't come to any definite decision as yet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are anxious to have a good time, but your friends have others plans. Invite a partner along with you instead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Although a change may occur in financial affairs, don't get excited or you could take quite a loss.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't light into an associate who is slightly touchy. Enjoy inexpensive recreations tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't permit a private anxiety to spoil the activities you have planned for the day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may not agree with what your mate desires of you, but don't argue. Get busy at your regular routine.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Try not to argue at home. Get busy with your personal monetary affairs and improve them.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, is apt to make sudden and unexpected moves, so be sure to teach the importance of being steadfast to this child. Don't stifle the imagination of this one, but do teach him, or her, to handle original ideas in a most practical fashion. One who will love sports.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Watch for unusual occurrences that can be turned to your advantage. There can be much happiness of a social, romantic or artistic expression now.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Something new enters your life and can bring you happiness. New contacts can bring you data and backing.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) An unexpected situation with your mate can now bring you greater happiness and gain you a coveted wish.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Contact that clever individual who can show you how to gain the wishes you have long been striving for.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are inspired now, so handle your activities with more enthusiasm. You will feel satisfied.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You may get an unexpected invitation for a delightful time, so take it. This may lead to follow-up amusements.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Home affairs may come up that require tactful handling if you are to steer clear of ensuring problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A new contract may require the assistance of a clever partner. Don't let your emotions get the better of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't get into arguments over finances. Co-workers with good judgment can relieve some confusion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Avoid one with whom you are bound to quarrel. Be kind and courteous with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Place your attention on a new course of action and don't let the old one hold you back.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) An old friend and a new acquaintance could disagree on some matter, so keep them apart.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Disturbing situations arise concerning someone you know, but don't get involved. A new attitude is called for.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will never be content at one job or be with one person for long, so let your progeny choose a profession in life that will require much travel, change and excitement. A certain amount of discipline will be necessary so that your progeny can avoid trouble.

Baker plays down prospects of major economic agreements

PARIS (R) — U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker, under fire as the global economy worsens, Wednesday played down expectations of new international economic accords at next month's summit of seven leading industrial nations in Venice.

Mr. Baker, at a breakfast hosted by the Anglo-American Press Association here, called on Japan and West Germany to live up to commitments to stimulate their economies that they made in the last such pact — February's Louvre accord.

But he brushed aside suggestions that, without early implementation of the Louvre accord, named after the palatial French art museum which also houses the finance ministry, the global economy could be heading for its biggest slump since the harsh recession of 1981.

OECD countries' economic growth should average 2.5 to three per cent if the Louvre accord is implemented, and Mr. Baker, who is here for the annual OECD ministerial meeting this week, said, "I don't think we should be down in the mouth about that."

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a 24-nation forum for coordinating economic policies of Western industrial nations, forecasts growth at the low end of that prediction in the year ahead.

He said that predictions of recession have been made since 1983 but that "we haven't seen it and I don't think we ought to

think we are going to see it now." Looking ahead to next month's Venice summit, he said: "I don't think we should get expectations up," adding that "we shouldn't look for a great big new agreement every time we get together."

The summit will bring together the leaders of the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada at a time when world economic growth is slowing and financial markets remain in disarray.

As a result, Mr. Baker now faces a barrage of criticism. Detractors say he built expectations up too high, while defenders argue that Mr. Baker is being held responsible for many factors beyond his control.

Mr. Baker said Wednesday that, while Japan and West Germany should meet their Louvre accord commitments, he was encouraged by signs of progress so far.

The Feb. 22 accord calls on Japan and West Germany to speed up their economic growth to help cut massive gaps between their own trade surpluses and the huge U.S. trade deficit.

The accord also calls on the United States to cut its budget deficit and fight protectionist sentiment on Capitol Hill.

If implemented, the accord said currencies should stabilise around current levels.

Mr. Baker repeated that the seven nations believed a further decline of the dollar could be counter-productive, hurting their

attempt to shore up the global economy.

He said the Louvre accord would help to achieve a further reduction in the U.S. trade deficit.

Japan, he said, has made encouraging commitments to pass a roughly \$35 billion package to boost its economy and this week outlined the timing and scope of its package in private meetings with U.S. officials.

Mr. Baker said Japan's commitments were "credible promises" and praised recent interest rate cuts in Japan and West Germany as showing both countries were "well aware of the obligation that they have too in reducing external imbalances."

But Mr. Baker urged West Germany to stimulate its economy "as much as it can as soon as it can." He declined to say whether Washington wanted action before January 1988, as the Louvre accord specifies.

In West Germany, Economics Minister Martin Bangemann said his country has not changed economic policies at all.

Other U.S. officials say that the United States has changed its position and is urging West Germany to cut taxes before the date set in the Louvre accord.

Washington, Mr. Baker said, was living up to its commitments made in February in Paris. He repeated statements that the budget deficit would come down \$40 billion this fiscal year, ending in October, from about \$220 billion the previous year.

Japan asks banks to curb dollar sales

LONDON (R) — The dollar was a little stronger in currency markets Wednesday after the Japanese government tried to talk it higher by asking Tokyo banks, brokers and investors to curb speculative sales of the U.S. currency.

It touched 140.90 yen, its highest in two weeks, in Asia. Then, in Europe, it traded around 140.10 yen and 1.7960 marks — after 139.55 and 1.7890 in London Tuesday night.

Gold was a shade weaker, at a London fixing price Wednesday morning of \$459.50 after ending Tuesday night at \$460.75.

London share prices were up, after a 14-point gain on Wall Street Tuesday night. But Japanese investors thought recent gains in Tokyo had been overdone and stocks there ended lower.

Pundits worried about the global economy had their attention on Paris and talks there among ministers of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The United States hopes that will help correct its own huge trade deficit, a factor which has been helping to drive the dollar down, in a way that does not prove recessionary globally.

Currency traders said that, if U.S. March trade figures due out Thursday are bad, the dollar would nosedive again.

The crisis over trading imbalances was highlighted by news Wednesday that Japan had a record trade surplus with the United States last month. This soared to \$5.15 billion from \$3.78 billion in March.

Still, although dealers were sceptical about how far words could halt the dollar's 2½-year-old decline, it did perk up a little Wednesday after Japan's government asked investors to cut back on speculative dollar sales.

Also, West Germany trimmed short-term interest rates Tuesday — a step to make mark holdings less attractive and help stimulate business activity as the United States wants.

Japan has been trying hard to find ways to stop the dollar's fall, which has robbed its exporters of profits and threatened to throw its economy into recession.

Mr. Makoto Utsumi, director

general of the finance ministry's international finance bureau, told reporters the government made its request about dollar sales in face-to-face meetings with heads of Japanese and foreign financial institutions.

Share prices closed lower in Tokyo. Some Japanese investors thought recent gains there had been too rapid, and the market average slipped 172.66 points to end at 24,363.19.

But gains on Wall Street Tuesday night helped put new heart into investors in London, where share values rebounded Wednesday morning after a shake-out on Tuesday.

London investors had cashed in gains after shares had soared on business optimism that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party will win a June 11 election.

Volkswagen recalls 275,000 cars

TROY, Michigan (R) — West German-owned Volkswagen U.S. Inc. said Tuesday it had recalled about 275,000 of its 1985/1987 model cars sold in the United States to fix fuel pumps that could fail in hot weather.

The recall includes 1985-87 Jetta models, some 1985-1987 Scirocco and Cabriolet models and some 1986 Golf cars. The Jetta, Scirocco and Cabriolet vehicles were imported from West Germany, while the Golfs were built in the United States, a spokesman said.

Volkswagen said it was not aware of any accidents or injuries resulting from failure of the fuel pump or of any recall on the vehicles outside the United States. The spokesman noted that fuel systems on Volkswagen cars sold overseas are considerably different.

Last January, the company recalled 250,000 of its prestigious Audi 5000s cars, which have been plagued with unexpected acceleration.

Bahrain banks seek new ways into corporate finance

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's banks are trying to establish a foothold in lucrative corporate restructurings in the United States and West Germany in a bid to offer a new type of investment for their wealthy Middle East customers.

At a time when traditional bank lending in the Middle East has all but dried up, two of Bahrain's offshore banks have set up joint-venture operations to give Arab investors a way into small and medium-sized companies about to go public.

It is a market niche in Bahrain which had previously been the preserve of Arabian Investment Banking Corp., known as Investcorp.

Bahrain-based Investcorp, set up in 1982, made the running by buying companies and property in industrialised countries, mainly the United States, and selling debt or equity stakes to Arab investors in the Gulf.

This year has been two other Bahrain-based offshore banks launch similar schemes with foreign partners to complement their normal business and, investment

man of Moseley Capital Markets Ltd. in London, said the venture with ABC — American Bridge Finance Limited Partnership — "aims at lending money to medium-sized companies which are still privately owned and need finance before they can become public companies."

Arab investors putting up funds earn from profits of loans and from capital appreciation of stock warrants when a company goes public.

Arab investment of \$40 million is being sought and a portfolio of 20 to 30 companies could be built up.

The BIB/Matuschka operation is set up as a fund, the Gulf Matuschka German Private Companies Fund Ltd., to invest in family-owned German companies which could be resold or brought to the stock exchange to realise profits.

BIB General Manager Donald Sellinger said the bank was confident of exceeding the original target of attracting investment capital of 100 million marks (\$55 million).

Australia unveils tough mini-budget

CANBERRA (R) — The Australian government Wednesday unveiled a package of tough measures in a mini-budget aimed at saving four billion dollars (\$2.8 billion) in the next fiscal year's budget and putting the economy on an even keel.

The measures, including heavy cuts in politically sensitive areas of welfare, health and education, would cut the expected budget deficit to 2.8 billion dollars (\$1.98 billion) or one per cent of gross domestic product in 1987/88.

"They (the cuts) reduce the growth rate in government spending to its lowest level in 30 years," Treasurer Paul Keating said in presenting the economic statement to parliament.

Mr. Keating's package also envisaged the sale of government assets, including leasing international airport terminals, the sale of defence factories and dockyards, and of parts of Australian

embassy sites in Tokyo and Paris.

These were expected to raise one billion dollars (\$781 million). Business and financial analysts welcomed Mr. Keating's statement and said Prime Minister Bob Hawke's Labour Party government had lived up to market expectations.

Political analysts said Mr. Keating had taken a gamble in asking Australians to further tighten their belts with elections less than a year away.

But any political backlash was expected to be short-lived and not affect the government's prospects in the elections due before April next year, they said.

Mr. Keating said the measures were "the only way to secure Australia's future." Businessmen and industrialists readily agreed with him.

The budget savings were vital, he said, because falling prices for exports, such as wheat, coal, sugar

More strikes break out in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE (R) — More strikes have broken out in Yugoslavia, shattering hopes that a settlement to a protracted miners' strike could signal an upturn in Yugoslavia's dismal economic outlook.

About 1,200 meat packers in the city of Zagreb Tuesday night announced an all-out strike, saying their managers had ruined the firm's finances and failed to pay staff for more than 10 weeks. A spokesman said they would stay on strike until their demands were met.

In Senj, on the Adriatic coast, 140 workers at a furniture factory walked out over a promised pay rise that did not materialise, local authorities said.

And 270 workers at a financial-troubled metal plant in the port of Split maintained their week-old strike over non-pay-

ment of wages, which average \$30 a month.

The latest industrial action came two days after the Labin coal mines, in northwest Yugoslavia, settled the country's longest strike with a 46 per cent pay rise for miners.

The recent wave of strikes, unlike a series of stoppages in March over a partial wage freeze, were triggered by financial insolvency and mismanagement in industrial enterprises.

At least 2,000 firms have been officially reported to be going broke. Some 200 are expected to be wound up over the next year under a new bankruptcy law.

The decay in Yugoslav industry is rooted in the country's disastrous economic performance, with 100 per cent inflation, \$20 billion in foreign debts, sagging exports, declining productivity

and serious structural problems. The meat packers' strike at the Sijeme factory in Zagreb, capital of the Croatian region, is the first walkout in post-war Yugoslavia organised by a trade union branch, the plant's union boss, Mr. Iko Gostovic, told Reuters.

In Yugoslavia, unions are an integral part of the political system and firms are supposed to be run by "workers self-management committees." Workers, however, have complained that managers are trying to take over the bodies.

The meat packers on Tuesday said their strike had no political implications and demanded that management be held responsible for the financial crisis at the firm.

Mr. Gostovic said the factory had no money for raw materials and production had stopped some days ago.

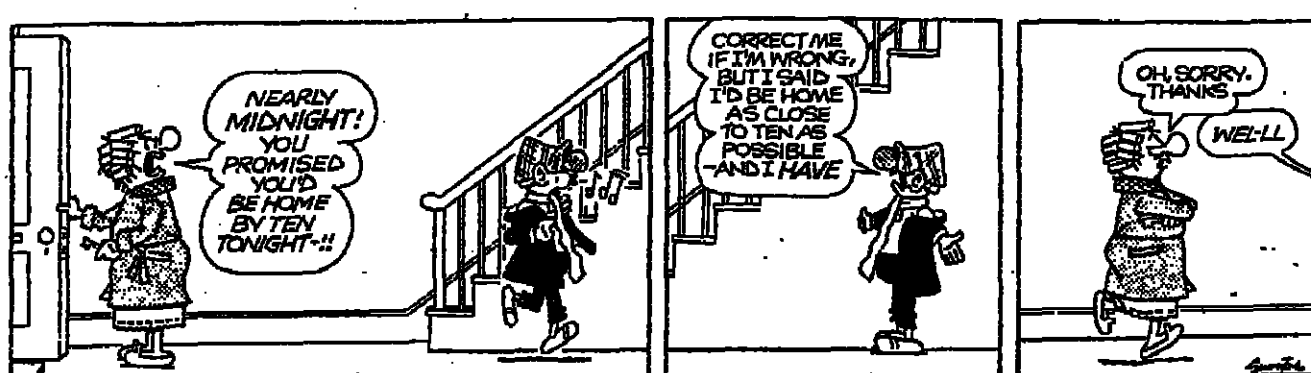
Peanuts



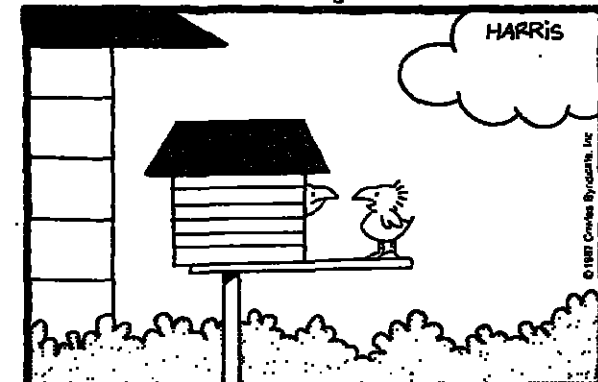
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



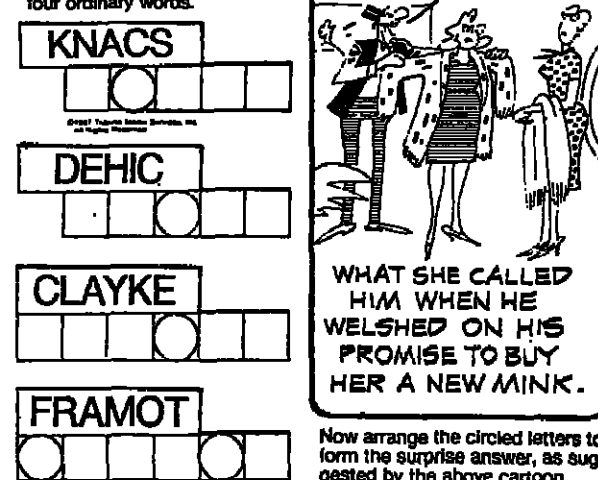
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I lost the rent money playing poker! If the fat guy comes to collect, pretend you don't speak English!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: EXACT FLAME MOSAIC HARROW

Answer: What do ghosts eat for breakfast? — SCREAM OF WHEAT

House votes to restrict foreign access to 'Star Wars' funds

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a measure that could severely restrict the ability of foreign governments and firms to receive "Star Wars" research and development funds.

The vote came during House consideration of its \$289 billion version of the 1988 defence bill, which is \$23 billion less than Mr. Reagan's \$312 billion budget proposal.

On a 229-187 vote, the House approved an amendment that prohibits foreign firms or governments from receiving "Star Wars" research and development funds unless the Defence Department certifies that the work cannot be done in the United States at an equivalent cost.

The move could severely affect numerous firms around the world who had hoped to win some of the billions of dollars being offered for research in "Star Wars," the land- and space-based

anti-missile programme formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

The Reagan administration has sought the support of U.S. allies around the world in the SDI project and a number of foreign firms and countries were planning to compete for programme contracts.

The Senate and Mr. Reagan must agree on the measure before it becomes law, and unanimous approval is far from certain. But the vote highlighted the strong protectionist sentiment brewing in Congress.

Monday's other votes reflected the Democrat-led House's ambivalence about the controver-

sial "Star Wars" programme, with members refusing to push ahead for early deployment while at the same time refusing to kill it outright.

The House voted 122 to 301 to reject an amendment that would have required the Defence Department to begin full-scale development and testing of "Star Wars" components to achieve deployment capability by 1993.

The House earlier voted 105 to 307 to defeat an amendment that would have cut all current funds for SDI and instead provide \$1.2 billion to the Defence Department for basic research on missile defence technology.

Mr. Reagan had requested \$5.7 billion in 1988 funding for "Star Wars."

The House Monday rejected bids by Republicans to raise the amount but approved an amendment offered by the Democrats to reduce the level to \$3.1 billion.

The Senate Armed Services Committee allocated \$4.5 billion for SDI in its 1988 defence bill, on which the full Senate was expected to begin debate this week.

When both houses have passed their own defence bills, they will compromise on a budget to send to Mr. Reagan, who has vowed to veto legislation containing arms control limits he opposes.

Both House and Senate versions of the defence bill include measures that would in effect force Mr. Reagan to remain within the traditional interpretation of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, which bans sea-based, space-based and mobile land-based anti-ballistic missile systems.

The Reagan administration has put forward a new, or broad, treaty interpretation that would allow "Star Wars" testing forbidden under the traditional interpretation.

Weinberger: Soviets could cheat on short-range missiles

OSLO (R) — The Soviet Union could easily cheat on a treaty to reduce short-range nuclear missiles facing Western Europe despite strict inspection procedures, U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said.

"That is not to say that you should not sign an agreement," he said. "It is to say that you should have a healthy degree of scepticism about total and complete compliance."

Mr. Weinberger spoke with reporters en route to a NATO Nuclear Planning Group (NPG) meeting at Stavanger, Norway, this week, which will focus on U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms negotiations.

He said the United States favoured global elimination of medium-range (INF) Soviet SS-20 and U.S. Pershing-2 and ground-launched cruise missiles but had made no decision on a Soviet proposal to cut shorter-range missiles (SRINF) in the European theatre.

"With a short-range missile it is very hard to verify anything," Mr. Weinberger told reporters in an interview on his aircraft between Washington and Oslo.

"You can put them in taxicabs, or farm trucks, or whatever and move them around. They don't require the infrastructure and it is very much more difficult (to verify)."

"They (the Soviet Union) can produce a zero result for an in-

spection in every way ... in a country that large with a closed kind of society, they can build and store things that we can't see."

Mr. Weinberger will fly to Stavanger for an NPG meeting on Thursday and Friday at which Atlantic alliance defence ministers will take up the arms issue and what it means for Western security.

With some doubts, NATO has endorsed U.S. moves toward an INF agreement with the Soviet Union that would eliminate from Europe "deep strike" missiles with a range of 600 to 3,000 miles (1,000 kilometres).

The Western allies are agonising over how to respond to Moscow's offer to abolish shorter-range missiles — those with a range of 300 to 600 miles (500 to 1,000 kilometres) — in Europe.

NATO says it has few weapons in this range and many allies believe it is too good an offer to refuse.

Mr. Weinberger stressed that he was not against an SRINF agreement, but he said any steps toward eliminating medium- and shorter-range missiles in Europe would cost NATO money because of massive conventional forces on the Soviet side.

"You have a strong desirability in getting a NATO consensus and not a reluctant consensus," Mr. Weinberger said, while promising not to pressure the Europeans with U.S. ideas at Stavanger.

Najib praises Afghan army

MOSCOW (R) — Afghan leader Najib has said the country's armed forces are strong enough to defeat rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, but this is not their aim, TASS news agency reported Wednesday.

Mr. Najib said his "national reconciliation" policy aimed at ending the eight-year conflict with the rebels was not a sign of weakness, the official Soviet agency, quoting statements by Mr. Najib published in Kabul, said.

"On the contrary, never before has a single Afghan government had more numerous and better-equipped armed forces than ours," it quoted him as saying. "We could step up attacks on the enemy and continue the war to complete victory," he added. "But this is not the aim of our revolution, our party and

power."

Meanwhile U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Tuesday the United States wants India to take a stronger stand in urging the Soviet Union to pull its troops out of Afghanistan.

"Certainly it would be a great boon to the subcontinent... if Soviet military forces got out of Afghanistan and Afghanistan was allowed to have a life of its own," he told the U.S.-India business leaders conference sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"We would like to see more support from India for that point of view," he added.

Mr. Shultz said he believed India could be influential with Moscow on the issue — a major foreign policy concern for the Reagan administration, which is supporting Afghan rebels fighting the Kabul government troops.

Aquino urges opposition to respect voters' will

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino Wednesday urged opponents complaining of fraud in the Philippine elections to "respect the people's will" and wait for the final results before pronouncing judgment.

She told reporters she was happy with Monday's elections, which promise a crushing blow to her right-wing and left-wing foes. Opposition politicians allege massive cheating.

"Why don't they wait until the final results are in? Why don't they respect the people's will?" Mrs. Aquino said after the first cabinet meeting since the vote.

Unofficial counts give Mrs. Aquino's Lakas ng Bayan party a 23-to-one landslide in the 24-seat senate and suggest her coalition administration would also easily dominate the 200-member lower house.

Cabinet officials said government ministers were assessing the poll, held to establish the first free legislature in the Philippines since 1972. Strongman Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law and suppressed dissent that year.

The officials said there had been a score of electoral firsts, including: The highest voter turnout, with more than 90 per cent of registered voters casting ballots the largest number of election candidates and the lowest number of election incidents.

No figures were given but the election is estimated to have been contested by more than 2,000 candidates.

Local Government Secretary Jaime Ferrer said he reported to the cabinet that three quarters of the 200 places in the house of representatives were likely to go to the administration.

"A maximum of 50 opposition candidates will win in the congress," he said, adding this would be fewer opposition members than the 64 in Marcos's docile legislature.

"The great majority of the win-

ners in congress will be new and not professional politicians. It will be difficult to determine what kind of congress will emerge," Mr. Ferrer said.

Presidential Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo implicitly acknowledged election officials may have committed "oversight" in some precincts but they did not tarnish the overall result.

Mrs. Aquino's cabinet met Wednesday for the first time since the vote.

The two-chamber congress is expected to convene late next month forming the first free legislature in the Philippines since 1972.

With the vote count from Monday's election reaching 17 per cent of 26 million voters, only one opposition candidate, popular movie actor Joseph Estrada, was in the "magic 24" slated for the senate.

Juan Ponce Enrile, Mrs. Aquino's former rebellious defence chief and now leader of the main rightist opposition group Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD), reached 23rd place in the count during the night but skidded to 26th by mid-morning.

Analysts said the fight for the last senate slots remained open and that Mr. Enrile, fighting for political survival after being dismissed from the Aquino cabinet for alleged roles in coup plots, could still make it.

Mr. Enrile, believed to enjoy wide support in Mrs. Aquino's fractious army, Tuesday issued dark warnings of political turmoil "of unimaginable magnitude."

Mr. Enrile charged widespread vote manipulation. He also said irregular voting procedures adopted by the commission on election (Comelec) in several areas contributed to the fraud and said GAD candidates would not take their seats even if final results showed any of them to have won.

News executives disagree on new information order

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Top news executives have differed on the controversial new world information order but agreed that endless discussions and resolutions on the issue have produced practically nothing.

"The new information order has been around so long now that we might call it the old information order," said Los Angeles Times Foreign Editor Alvin Shuster in a speech at the 36th general assembly of the International Press Institute.

"We cannot go along with proposals to restrict the way we cover the world, to focus on only one side of the story," said Mr. Shuster, though he said he sympathised with some of the new order's aims.

Proposals for a new world information order, calling for equal access to information systems by all nations, have been circulating in international forums for years and are backed mainly by Third World countries.

They complain that Western media distort news from the Underdeveloped World and have created a near-monopoly on international communications.

"There can be no talk of freedom of the press and of human rights so long as a more just information system and flow of information are relegated to the background," said Director-General Mihailo Saranovic of Yugoslavia's state news agency Tanjug.

Barbie denies responsibility for committing war crimes

LYON, France (R) — Former Gestapo officer Klaus Barbie has denied responsibility for wartime persecution of Jews while saying he merited his promotion within SS ranks.

Asked at his trial for crimes against humanity Tuesday what he thought of an SS report describing him as an "irreproachable" secret police officer, Barbie said he had been unaware of its existence until his expulsion from Bolivia four years ago.

But he added: "Undoubtedly my superiors were not mistaken. They based their reports on facts."

Assize court presiding Judge Andre Cerdini said the report led to his promotion in 1940 within the elite SS security corps, the

Sicherheitsdienst or SD, which he joined in 1935 at the age of 22. Judge Cerdini was carrying out a detailed interrogation of Barbie's past. It will be followed by psychiatrists' reports on the personality of the defendant.

Earlier on the second day of his trial, Barbie rose to deliver an unexpected and emotionally-charged denial of giving orders to round up Jews in Lyon, where he served as a Gestapo chief from 1942 to 1944.

"In listening to the charges yesterday and today I thought I was standing before the Nuremberg (war crimes) tribunal," he said, gestulating, after a nearly six-hour long reading of his indictment.

Security forces arrest 175 militants in Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — Security forces in Punjab arrested 175 militant Sikhs Wednesday, including a state cabinet minister, after New Delhi imposed direct rule on the north Indian state.

Police, freed from the control of the state's ousted moderate Sikh government, arrested political and student leaders known to have links with extremists, security officials in the state capital Chandigarh told Reuters.

Official sources said the new government would review some of more than 10,000 official appointments made by the sacked government of Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala.

Prem Singh Chandumajra, cooperation minister in Mr. Barnala's Akali Dal government who had criticised Punjab's hard-headed police chief Julio Ribeiro, was arrested at home this morning. Police said it was expected he would be charged with making provocative statements liable to cause a breach of the peace.

Police said the crackdown would continue for two or three days.

The central government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi put Punjab under its direct control on Monday and sacked Mr. Barnala, accusing his government of being soft on extremists fighting for an independent Sikh homeland.

The new government Wednesday reduced the number of body-

guards for Mr. Barnala and his former ministers and took away Mr. Barnala's bulletproof car, official sources said.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in the Sikh-majority state since Mr. Barnala came to power in September 1985.

Most of those arrested belonged to Akali Dal Party factions and the militant All-India Sikh Students Federation.

The students have been leading a "purity" campaign against smoking, drinking and hair-cutting — all banned by the Sikh faith.

They have killed several liquor store owners and burned hundreds of liquor, tobacco and barber's shops this year.

Ribeiro, a Catholic from Goa who survived an extremist assassination attempt last year, had complained of being forced to fight with one hand tied behind his back because of state government interference.

He was due to retire at the end of the month but the government extended his term by one year Tuesday.

New Delhi also sent him more than 6,000 paramilitary reinforcements Tuesday taking the total strength of security forces in the state to nearly 7,000. They came under the control of Delhi's appointed Governor Siddhartha Shankar Ray, who can also call out the army if needed.

Malta looks to the West after Nationalist victory

VALLETTA (R) — Malta's newly-elected prime minister, Eddie Fenech Adami, pledged to follow pro-Western, free-market policies as calm returned to the island Wednesday after turbulent victory celebrations by the Nationalist Party.

The socialist Labour Party, ousted after 16 years in office, said about 35 supporters were slightly scratched or bruised in scuffles after the conservative Nationalists narrowly triumphed in Saturday's parliamentary election.

Labour added that 28 of its clubs were vandalised during the Nationalists' celebrations.

"It isn't possible to count the number of break-ins and thefts from Labour activists' houses," Labour Party General Secretary Marie-Louise Correia told Reuters. The houses included those

of two outgoing Labour ministers.

Cheering, flag-waving motorcades of Nationalists took to the streets all over this small Mediterranean island state for more than 24 hours and only faded away after Nationalist leader and new Prime Minister Fenech Adami made a televised appeal for calm and order.

Two Labour clubhouses were set ablaze but damage to most was superficial. Party clubhouses on village and town squares in Malta are a focal point of society.

Nationalist Party officials pointed out that Labour Party supporters had attacked Nationalist clubs more than 100 times during Labour's rule and said Nationalist leaders had done their best to prevent revenge being taken.

COLUMNS 7&8

Groom late for wedding loses bride

BAHRAIN (R) — A wedding in Saudi Arabia took an unexpected turn when the bride's father, angered at the late arrival of the groom, married his daughter instead to one of the guests. The newspaper Al Khaleej said the last minute husband was a former suitor of the bride who had been invited to the wedding.

Tom Cruise marries actress Mimi Rogers

LOS ANGELES (R) — Tom Cruise, last year's box-office star in the hits Top Gun and the Colour of Money, and actress Mimi Rogers were married in New York in a private ceremony, their publicist has said. Cruise, 25, and Rogers, 29, who recently appeared in the film Streetwise with Christopher Reeve, have known each other for about two years and have lived together for at least the past year, publicist Andrea Jaffe said.

Man who tried to crucify himself freed

MOMBASA, Kenya (R) — A man who tried to crucify himself last Good Friday to give thanks to God was found not guilty of attempted suicide. David Mugo, 30, was cut from his cross after an accomplice had driven a nail through one hand. Magistrate Samuel Odhiambo bound him over to keep the peace for 12 months against a bond of 10,000 shillings (\$620). Mugo told reporters after his acquittal that he would try again next Easter in line with his plans to crucify himself seven times to thank God for saving his life at least twice. Mugo, a self-styled artist, says he survived a bus crash in 1978 and later escaped drowning after being thrown off a cargo vessel on which he had stowed away.

Liberace estate files claim for damages

RIVERSIDE, California (R) — The estate of Liberace has filed a claim for unspecified damages against Riverside County, alleging the entertainer's reputation was damaged by a county coroner who linked his death to AIDS. Coroner Raymond Carrillo is also accused of violating state law by ordering an unnecessary autopsy and of revealing that Liberace's blood tested positive for the AIDS virus before a cause of death had been determined. Carrillo said: "It is a stupid claim because that was what I was mandated to do. It was a necessary autopsy." He said Liberace, 67, who died in February, succumbed to a form of pneumonia caused by acquired immune deficiency syndrome and could have been suffering from AIDS for months or years. Liberace's personal physician, Dr. Ronald Daniels, had listed the cause of death as cardiac arrest brought on by a form of brain damage. Homosexuals are considered a high-risk group for AIDS infection. Liberace firmly denied allegations of homosexuality.

Turkey wants to save rare sea turtles

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey wants to save rare sea turtles spawned in a small zone off the Aegean coast where a hotel may be built, the government's tourism minister has said. Mesut Yilmaz said the government has asked foreign scientists to determine whether any construction work in the region would harm the sea turtles. He told a news conference that work was started to turn part of the coast used by sea turtles into a national park. "However, we still believe that the 600-bed hotel project which is scheduled to be completed in a year will not pose any danger to the sea turtles because it is 3 kilometres away from the coastal area where they live," Mr. Yilmaz added. He said there were about 60 sea turtles living in the region. "Each of them lay about 100 eggs annually but only a few baby turtles come out of eggs and manage to survive," he added. The species of sea turtles in the coastal areas have been identified as Caretta Caretta and Chelonia Mydas.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Stenson

MURAL
By I. Miller

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24 One who
25 Servant
26 One who
27 (whatsoever)
28 Albee
29 Unhappy
30 Ingredient
31 Like a ware-
32 house item
33 Hints
34 US journalist
35 Whistles
36 Writer who
37 Australian city
38 "My Friend"
39 Milk type
40 Concerning
41 "Don't" — on
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DOWN
1 Handie
2 Less common
3 Stadium
4 One who
5 Dramatist
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33 Opera — of
34 Owned
35 Descriptive fur
36 Thrifty
37 Traveler's
38 Minicirc a
39 Fugitive
40 Sacred site
41 Minicirc a
42 Exile
43 Hab. month
44 Habit month
45 Orange skin
46 Kick word
47 Minicirc pass
48 Asafora
49 Bout or train
50 One, first
51 Musical
52 One
53 A few

54 Self-interest
55 Collaps
56 No, region
57 Film director
58 Sidney
59 One's neighbor
60 An even tone
61 Ancestor
62 Incubated
63 Satchel
64 Plague
65 Deprive of
66 A bequest
67 Bit of news
68 Printing
69 For short
70 Dye cloth
71 Slacks
72 Profitable
73 Move
74 One is better
75 than one

76 Deprive of
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101 Four balls
102 Hab. letters
103 Eng. composer
104 and family
105 Feast or
106 Friday's
107 greater
108 100 of dreams
109 Most out
110 Confederate
111 general
112 Bolshoi
113 Perfect e.g.
114 Philistine
115 opera
116 U.S. river
117 Summer: Fr.
118 Suffer defeat
119 State
120 Perpetual
121 ownership
122 One
123 Calf suit

124 Nationally
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126 FBI agent
127 Professional
128 dancers
129 Houdini's
130 Collects
131 Overtime Chas.
132 capital
133 Polish
134 Unhappy
135 Dart
136 Spanish
137 First-rate
138 Money maker
139 Venetian
140 Gymnast Korbut
141 Prescription
142 letters
143 104 Rule
144 Comp. pt.

145 Tired pick-up driver got picked up for speeding after stop at roadside
146 Tires
147 Frisky foal frolicking in forest finally finds fancy ferns for fodder
148 Tires
149 To possess placid virtue can be fine, but to use it kindly is frankly di-
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151 Pigeon lays huge odd-shaped egg in cup and coos happily.

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